

Britain has £331m trade surplus

North Sea oil has pushed Britain into the black with a £331m surplus on visible trade with the rest of the world in December. The news came yesterday as Mr Terry Burns, the Government's chief economic adviser, was cautiously predicting that economic growth this year could exceed the 1 per cent forecast by the Treasury in December.

Page 13

Battle opens for lead-free petrol

Doctors in London launched the Campaign for Lead-free Air. The campaign presented evidence of a direct connection between still-births and malformations in babies and petrol-lead pollution from car exhausts.

Page 2

Investigation in Scots rape case

An investigator will start gathering evidence today for a private prosecution against the alleged attackers of the Glasgow woman who was raped and slashed with a razor. The woman's lawyer said he was confident leading QC's would give their services free.

Suicide after rape, page 3

Mitterrand faces gas deal anger

President Mitterrand is facing angry accusations that his tough line on the Polish crisis has been invalidated by the big French contract to buy gas from the Soviet Union. Now a similar deal appears about to be signed with Algeria.

Page 6

Telecom staff 'ineffective'

British Telecom engineers have been labelled ineffective by their chairman, Sir George Jefferson, who in a "state of the business" message speaks of serious overmanning, inflexible work practices and luxurious office accommodation.

Page 5



Dons' severance terms agreed

The main provisions of the national redundancy scheme for university teachers have been accepted by the Government. It is expected that more than 5,000 staff will go over the next two years.

Page 2

Water threat

Plaid Cymru is planning a campaign of civil disobedience, including party members refusing to pay their water rates, to force authorities in England to pay more for water from Welsh reservoirs.

Page 2

Rubik puzzle

The Rubik's Cube, puzzled over by millions, was taken apart in the High Court during a hearing concerning the importation of a similar cube.

Page 2

Bets pay-out

Pending an official decision, Ladbrokes, the bookmakers, have paid out on most bets on Saturday's controversial Kempston Park race in which the hot favourite Little Owl failed to complete the course.

Page 18

Ian Wells dies

Ian Wells, aged 17, the British chess player died yesterday in a Rio de Janeiro hospital. He had been in a coma for six days after a swimming accident.

Page 11

Letters: On ethnic minority schooling, from Professor David Smith; hydroelectric power, from Sir Kenneth Alexander; Marlborough plate, from Mr Arthur Grimwade.

Leading articles: Blacking of newspapers; Europe's energy policy.

Features: Notes, 8, 10
A Tony Mancini advice to the world where rare meets with resonance; 40 years of Desert Island Discs; fashion—futuristic revolution, by Suzy Menkes.

Obituaries: page 12
Lord Eurningham, Mr Charles Parton.

Page 1

Poland sets its terms for easing of martial law

Warsaw, Jan 25.—General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish Prime Minister, told Parliament today that martial law restrictions would be lifted by the end of February if the situation remained calm.

"Elements of martial law in industry," however, would have to be retained for a longer period, he added in a speech to the Sejm (Parliament), Warsaw radio said.

He was addressing the first full session of the Sejm held since martial law was imposed on December 13 and the military authorities cracked down on the Solidarity independent trade union movement.

The news agency PAP said General Jaruzelski gave a warning that martial law would be extended if the authorities faced serious opposition.

The report did not make it clear whether he meant that martial law itself would be rescinded when he spoke of "wholly revoking its restrictions."

If unforeseeable events do not occur and no illegal acts are launched, then the restrictions of the state of war will be seriously cut back or wholly revoked by the end of next month," he said.

The radio said an item of changes in the Council of Ministers (Government) had been added to the Parliament's agenda, which also included legislation legalising martial law and accompanying decrees.

These curbed civil freedom and provided for the suspension of Solidarity and the interment of about 5,000 political prisoners.

The radio quoted General Jaruzelski as saying that 1,750 people had been released from interment, but that 4,549 were still held. The total of 6,303 was the highest interment level.

He accused extremists in Solidarity of having ignored calls for agreement by Parliament individual deputies and the Government.

These extremists had paralysed the authorities, spread the law, disrupted the country's alliances and security, ruined the economy and abased confidence placed in them by millions of people.

Speaking of those who had been detained, he said nobody had been punished for his views. "Interment is a temporary measure." Those prepared to give up their activities against the socialist state could return to their homes and jobs.

He declared that the decision to impose martial law was made in Warsaw and not elsewhere. Rejecting suggestions that the move had been forced upon Poland by the Kremlin, he said: "The truth is that the decision to introduce martial law was our decision."

He again denounced the West for imposing sanctions and criticizing martial law, adding: "We will not stand before any self-appointed tribunal."

He singled out the United States; but added: "We are

Other Polish news, page 6

Gromyko brings Polish frost to Haig talks

From David Spanier, Geneva, Jan 25

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had a somewhat frosty answer ready to his arrival in Geneva yesterday for Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, who had announced that their talks opening tomorrow would concentrate on the Polish crisis.

"I have no intention whatever of discussing questions relating to Poland, or the domestic situation in Poland," Mr Gromyko, haleless in the open air and looking unusually fit, said crisply.

"I am certainly prepared to discuss questions concerning relations between the United States and the Soviet Union."

Mr Gromyko, arriving in Geneva with a ready answer.

EEC finance talks collapse

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 25

Britain prepared to freeze the EEC business last night as talks among the foreign ministers of the 10 member countries, aimed at restructuring the Community's finances, collapsed.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, was exasperated by his failure to convince the other nine foreign ministers that Britain needed a long-term solution to the problem of how much it should pay into the European budget.

"I made the point time and time again, but got no rational reply," he said. "I could not persuade my other nine colleagues of the justice



Thalidomide man tries for Boat Race Blue

Mr Derek Ward-Thompson, aged 20, a physio undergraduate at Christ Church and a victim of the drug thalidomide, is one of the four contenders this year for the coveted coxswain's seat in Oxford University's entry for the Boat Race (John Witherow writes).

Mr Ward-Thompson with no arms; nevertheless, he has been a highly successful cox for the past seven years with the aid of some string attached to the wire rudder lines of his boat (above). He simply leans back and steers with his hands.

He does not consider himself a favourite for the dark blue sweater.

On March 27, or even for the cox's seat in the 189 crew. But during a training session yesterday (right) on the Thames at Radley he appeared to be very much in control. A mere 7 stone 12lb, he had the eight brawny oarsmen of the B crew behaving like a disciplined flock of sheep.

He finds coxing a mentally demanding sport. He says that not only does the cox have to fight off the opposing crew's encroachments into his "water", but he also has to act as a spokesman to his crew.

Will Mr. Ward-Thompson be worried if he is selected to cox the Oxford eight? "Not at all", he said.

"I would treat it like any other race.

Rail rebels reject plea to stop blacking papers

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

British Rail last night put the King's Cross blockade of News International newspapers to the test by inviting the company to send copies of *The Sun* to catch trains bound for Yorkshire and the North-east.

The move came six hours after King's Cross workers voted to reject a formal recommendation by two local branch officers under the terms of a High Court undertaking to continue the blacking.

Mr Steven Forey, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen branch secretary at the terminus, and Mr Dennis Cadwoold, the union's departmental committee chairman, read brief statements to ignore any resolution, instruction, direction, advice or request already issued or made to black *The Sun*, *The Times*, *The News of the World*, *The Sunday Times* or *Sun Day Magazine*.

Mr Forey said he had also made a contribution saying what I think of *The Sun* to members who continue to refuse handing *The Sun* and *The Times*.

The short statement read out by each man said: "In accordance with the undertaking given in court before Mr Justice Gildehouse I am bound to make the following request: I request all employees here to ignore any resolution, instruction, direction, advice or request already issued or made to black *The Sun*, *The Times*, *The News of the World*, *The Sunday Times* or *Sun Day Magazine*."

Mr Forey said he had also made a contribution saying what I think of *The Sun* to members who continue to refuse handing *The Sun* and *The Times*.

The two men repeated that they wanted *The Sun* to print a "retraction" on the front page and that they proposed to write an article which they would ask the paper to use.

News International management which won the personal undertakings from Mr Forey and Mr Cadwoold in the High Court on Sunday were last night consulting counsel on what to do in the wake of the rejection.

The two men repeated that they wanted *The Sun* to print a "retraction" on the front page and that they proposed to write an article which they would ask the paper to use.

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The move by British Rail last night prompted speculation that BR management might be prepared to risk a walk-out at King's Cross by disciplining

the two men, who made their request in the presence of Mr Michael Baker, British Rail's chief solicitor, said the vote in favour of continuing the blacking was overwhelming, with only five against.

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Campaign to fight lead damage to babies

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Evidence of a direct connection between still births and malformations in babies and the amount of lead pollution from car exhausts was presented in London yesterday. The lead passes across the placenta from the mother to the infant during pregnancy.

Dr Fraser Alexander, a consultant paediatrician at Newcastle General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, described research showing that in heavily polluted urban atmospheres unborn babies were at high risk.

He is among the scientific and medical advisory board of an organization launched yesterday, the Campaign for Lead-free Air (CLEAR), which presented its first environmental report of clinical and laboratory investigations into the hazards of using lead additives in petrol.

Fifteen eminent obstetricians, paediatricians, toxicologists, and psychiatrists are advising the campaign, which is also supported by more than 140 MPs from all parties.

A trust which includes Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, Dr Jones, Sir Miller, Lord Aberybury, the Bishop of Birmingham and Mr Clive Jenkins has been formed to carry out research and a programme of public education.

Eight environmental groups have come together to support the campaign, which is seeking the abolition of lead in petrol.

The campaign has five ob-

jectives. The maximum limit of 0.15 grams of lead a gallon of petrol should be introduced earlier than the official date of 1985, and it should be for existing cars only. Second, all cars sold by 1985 should be lead-free. The third aim is that all petrol stations should have lead-free petrol available.

The fourth and fifth goals are that taxation on petrol should give a price advantage to lead-free petrol, and surveillance of the use of lead generally should be encouraged and enforced by law.

Dr Robina Russell-Jones, a medical statistician in a London hospital, said: "Lead has no business inside our bodies. There are over 4,000 papers in scientific and medical journals about lead. Not one has ever suggested that it is essential for human health."

He presented a review of the accumulation of lead in human bodies from early man to the present day. Analysis of archaeological remains showed, he said, that a "natural" man had less than 0.2 of a part a million of lead in the body.

That concentration increased 10 times with the development of industrial society, which is still rising in urban areas. With the introduction of lead additives in petrol, the amount deposited in the bones of "lead-poisoned man" of the twentieth century was 500 times higher than natural man's level.

Even in remote areas of the

world, such as the Himalayas or the Amazonian jungle, people had small increases in lead levels in their bodies from the natural background to between one and three parts a million.

That was below the level, five parts a million, at which animal experiments indicated that the effects of lead poison first became apparent. At concentrations of 10 parts a million lead is known to interfere with the function of Jim portase enzymes in the body.

Yet a recent examination of children in schools in one area of London found a mean level of lead in their bodies of 13 parts a million. The amount of lead-free petrol, and surveillance of the use of lead generally should be encouraged and enforced by law.

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Local Tory favoured to fight Hillhead

By Alan Hamilton

The local Conservative association in Glasgow, Hillhead, is to meet on Thursday night to choose a candidate to fight Mr Roy Jenkins in the forthcoming by-election, caused by the death of Sir Thomas Galbraith, who held the seat for the Tories for 33 years.

All the other main parties have named their candidates for the contest, for which no writ has yet been issued but which is thought likely to be called for March 18, conveniently between a Budget containing some crumbs of good news to boost the Conservative case, and the start of campaigning for the Scottish regional elections.

Officials of the Hillhead Conservative and Unionist Association are following the unusual practice of interviewing all candidates on the short list at a meeting tomorrow night. They will then invite the two leading contenders to return the next night and ask them to address the selection committee before a final choice is made.

The favoured contender is Mr Leonard Turpie, aged 47, a Glasgow solicitor and leader of the 24-strong Conservative opposition on Strathclyde Regional Council. Mr Turpie's candidature has been in some doubt in recent weeks because of publicity given to allegations of malpractice in the Glasgow law firm of which he is a partner.

Last month, Mr Turpie's firm was brought before the Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal and found guilty of a breach of the solicitors' account rules governing the use of clients' money held in trust. Mr Turpie himself was found guilty, but no penalty was imposed, while other partners in the practice were fined. His wife, Mrs Deirdre Turpie, who is also a partner, was suspended.

An appeal against the ruling is to be heard before the Court of Session in Edinburgh on Friday.

The local party is anxious to have a strong contender to fight the SDP challenge from Mr Jenkins, although opinion polls so far published predict that the Conservatives will lose their last seat in Glasgow by a considerable margin. Labour's prospective candidate is Mr David Wiseman, a Strathclyde Social worker.

The other leading contenders on the Conservatives' short list are Mr William Aitken, an insurance company property superintendent and leader of the Tory opposition group on Glasgow District Council, whose ward of Anniesland covers half of the Hillhead constituency; and Mr Robert Kehoe, a former director of the Conservative Central Office in Scotland, who now edits the *Church of Scotland's monthly magazine, Life and Work.*

Under the new scheme, which is based on a similar redundancy scheme for so-called "mobile" civil servants, men under the age of 50 will be eligible for an immediate lump sum payment equivalent to a month's pay for each year of service and a further



International flavour: Mr Aurelius Fernandez, the American Embassy press attaché, accepting a haggis on behalf of the ambassador from pipers of the 2nd Battalion, The Scots Guards. They are raising money for charity.

Toxteth ethnic centre facing loss of grant

By Lucy Hodges

Liverpool council is poised to withdraw its £26,000 grant from the Charles Woodson Centre, the adult education centre for black people in Toxteth, which it is feared will lead to its closure.

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Under the new scheme, which is based on a similar redundancy scheme for so-called "mobile" civil servants, men under the age of 50 will be eligible for an immediate lump sum payment equivalent to a month's pay for each year of service and a further

month's pay for each year of service after their thirtieth birthday or after completing five years of service, whichever is later.

Thus a don aged 47 with 22 years' service on a salary of £14,

Sabotage query raised by gas protesters

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Opponents of the oil and gas storage plants in Canvey Island complained yesterday that the possibility of sabotage had been left out of official investigations of risk to residents near by.

Mr Conrad Schiemann, QC, leading the case for local councils, said: "All sides agree that deliberate sabotage is a risk, but no one has sought to quantify it. You may feel that this risk alone may be larger than any of the others."

He was speaking on the first day of a resumed public inquiry on the island about the possible closure or restriction of the British Gas methane terminal which reaches out to the Thames Estuary from the south of Canvey.

Sir Bernard Braine, the Conservative MP whose Essex, South-East, constituency includes the island, said: "Since this installation has already been the subject of serious sabotage attempt by the IRA, it is proper for us to point out that the question of sabotage is very real when you have got hazardous installations close to each other and close to a residential area."

He said that the omission of sabotage was one of the many faults in an investigation that has led to a safety clearance by the Government's Health and Safety Executive. "There is a wanton disregard of what could happen to the islanders in the event of a major spillage of liquefied gas leading to the formation of a vapour cloud."

"Nor is any attention paid to human and psychological reactions in the event of

Plaid plans campaign over water charges

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Plaid Cymru is planning a campaign of civil disobedience aimed at forcing authorities in England to pay more for the water they extract from Welsh reservoirs.

From March 1, St David's Day, thousands of Plaid members, including top party officials, will refuse to pay their water rates.

The campaign will be run on similar lines to that which forced the Government to change its mind on the Welsh language television channel.

Throughout the campaign the party will be careful to dissociate itself from the extremists who earlier this month planted a bomb outside the Birmingham headquarters of Severn-Trent Water Authority.

The submission of beautiful valleys to create reservoirs to supply England had been an emotive issue in the principality and many people not connected with the Welsh Nationalist Party resent paying more for their water than is paid in England.

The discontent has been exacerbated by the scrapping of the Water Charges Equalisation Act, which redressed some of the difference to the extent of £3m a year.

He claimed that official figures showed that the risk to the 34,000 island inhabitants of being killed in an accident at one of the storage tanks was 10 times as great as that of dying in a car crash.

Mr Rankin made clear that British Gas was determined to fight for a clean bill of health for the terminal because of the wider implications of closure. If the terminal is closed, what will happen to other installations, and what would be the cumulative effect on the economic life of the country?

Heseltine actions 'could deter councillors'

By David

Walter
Norwich Council for the second day.

It is appealing against the High Court judgment which found Mr Heseltine had acted within the law last month, taking over the city's housing to speed the sale of homes to tenants.

Mr Heseltine took action against the council under section 23 of the 1980 Act. Mr Nigel McLeod QC, for Norwich, said that a key word in that section was "practicable". Mr Heseltine had judged Norwich without taking into account local circumstances that delayed the processing of tenants' applications to buy.

The hearing continues today.

New airport 'a boost to population'

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent

An enlarged Stansted airport would attract an extra population of up to 300,000, equivalent to a city the size of Nottingham, a leading planning consultant estimated last night.

That population, however, is unlikely to be housed in a new "jet city" sprawling over 26 square miles of Essex countryside, Mrs Ian Fulton told the Regional Studies Association in London. Enlightened planning could ensure that population growth took place in existing towns and cities within reach of Stansted, revitalizing them.

The main ones would be the London districts of Camden, Islington, Lambeth and Docklands, and the townships of Bedford, Corby, Luton, Milton Keynes, Northampton, and Peterborough. "If Stansted was developed fully as London's third airport it would be handling substantially more traffic than Heathrow, 50 million passengers a year, against 38 million by the turn of the century, and would have become Britain's largest employment generator bar none," Mrs Fulton said.

With the decline of its main seaports Britain had already become an air-trading nation, dependent on an efficient airport system at London for its economic survival. Heathrow, handling 14 per cent of Britain's overseas trade as well as 28 million passengers a year, was the 1980s equivalent of the Port of London in the 1880s.

London was a natural focal point for world air routes but to capitalize on future growth airport capacity had to be provided in the right place, Mr Fulton said. Alternatives to Stansted put forward did not fulfil that requirement. Severnside and Maplin were both too far from London, which would continue to be the main traffic generator for international traffic, despite a decline in its domestic population.

For that reason the development of regional airports was not a viable alternative. A fifth terminal at Heathrow was a minimal solution which would not eliminate the need for Stansted eventually, resulting in a higher ultimate cost.

Girl fell to death after gang rape



Miss Lynch: Her torment for two years

"They pulled back the bedclothes. At this time neither of the couple were wearing any clothes. The four men then left the flat."

They then returned and took it in turns to have sexual intercourse with Miss Lynch again, her will, Sergeant Royle said.

Sergeant David Lancaster-Smith said Miss Lynch had been treated by a psychiatrist. She was a possible schizophrenic and drug abuser and was a suicide risk.

Mr Roy Barter, the Merseyside Coroner, who recorded an open verdict, said there was inconclusive evidence to decide whether she fell accidentally or jumped.

Det. Constable George Hall, aged 37, accused of rape, who was found dead just before a gas blast wrecked his home, was depressed about the forthcoming case but did not seek help, his commanding officer, Chief Superintendent James Carlin, head of Doncaster police division, said yesterday. Recent publicity about rape had not helped.

Mr Hall, of Queen's Crescent, Bawtry, near Doncaster, was due to appear in court on February 2 accused of rape and assault. He had been suspended from duty. An inquest will open today.

Det. Sergeant Peter Royle, who was involved in the hunt for the four rapists, said the intruders claimed they were searching for a man called Eddie after a drugs deal which had gone wrong.

But police said they were having difficulties because some of the people at the party, at Barton Mills, near Mildenhall, Suffolk, were unidentified gatecrashers.

Some of that meat was taken later to the wholesale butchers at Aspley. A magistrate was called and the meat ordered to be condemned.

Two admit trade in unfit meat

Meat from a knacker's yard, unfit for human consumption, found its way into shoppers' baskets and eventually on to dinner tables, Leicester magistrates were told yesterday.

The health risks involved in eating the meat, some of which bore false stamps of approval, must have been considerable, it was stated.

Health officials found lamb carcasses beside excreta-contaminated horse tails in a freezer at a Bedfordshire butcher's shop. The owner later claimed the tails were for a friend who made rocking horses.

Francis Fensome, aged 58, of Spinney Crescent, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, and Peter Fletcher, aged 41, of Stuart Street, Dunstable, were remanded on bail for four weeks for reports after admitting handling meat unfit for, but intended for, human consumption.

The men who had a butcher's shop in Bedford Road, Houghton Regis, also admitted failing to take adequate steps to protect meat from the risk of contamination and other cleanliness and hygiene offences.

Mr Hugh Mayor, prosecuting for South Bedfordshire and Luton district councils, said meat sold for human consumption must come from a licensed slaughterhouse and be inspected and stamped by a council official.

Meat from knacker's yards where tuberculosis and anthrax were often found, must be sterilized and never sold for human consumption.

The court was told that Fletcher began buying meat from a knacker's yard at Wigston, near Leicester, in August, 1979, when he was in partnership with Fensome, trading as Spinney Butchers at Houghton Regis.

In February, 1980, Fletcher began to supply meat to a wholesale butcher in London Road, Aspley, Bedfordshire. Eventually, environmental health officers became suspicious and watched the yard at Wigston. Fletcher's van was seen outside and later found on Dunstable, where meat was seen being carried into his shop.

Some of that meat was taken later to the wholesale butchers at Aspley. A magistrate was called and the meat ordered to be condemned.



That floating feeling: Michael Crawford at the Palladium yesterday

The tightrope to success

The musical, *Barnum*, starring Michael Crawford, who trained for many months for the part and is insured for £3m, walks the high wire, works on the trampoline and trapeze, juggles, tumbles, clowns, sings and dances in what he describes as "the most demanding part he has ever played."

In some 270 performances he has fallen off the high wire only once, but he has had cuts on his feet, blisters, bruises and torn muscles, and remains a stone

below his normal weight. "But I love every minute of it," he said yesterday at a reception to announce the record-breaking run. "I look forward to it every night."

The management nevertheless realizes that the performers, some 50 in all including the band, which marches on to the stage, need a rest. So the show, which has so far taken about £2.5m at the box office, is to close for a month in June so that the entire cast can take a holiday.

Shetland poll backs 19-hr ferry

From Jonathan Wills
Lerwick

A plan to extend a subsidized free ferry service run by the Shetland Islands' council has gained overwhelming support in a local referendum.

In a 73 per cent poll the 2,500 electors of Yell, Unst, Fetlar, Whalsay and Bressay voted by two-to-one in favour of running the ferries for 19 hours a day.

More than half of those who returned their questionnaires supported the scheme.

Mr James Irvine, transport chairman, said in Lerwick yesterday that the council could find the £326,000 a year needed for the extra ferry service - without cuts elsewhere, but it might be necessary to reintroduce passenger fares on the ferries, which have been free for the past three years.

Subsidizing the ferries out of the rates is costing £1.2m a year, and the islands' council is expected to decide next month whether to go ahead with the extended service.

Cannabis bus

Cannabis valued at £750,000 has been seized at police and customs offices at Avonmouth docks, Bristol. The haul was found in a car on board a ship which was believed to be en route to Denmark. Several people were arrested aboard.

Dodgem buses

Vandals badly damaged eight buses and lorries when they used them as dodgem buses at the Wallace School of Driving, in Nottingham, yesterday.

Only Christie's has made a significant reduction, following the recent public commitment to review auction charges.

By reducing the Buyer's Premium by a fifth - from 10 per cent to 8 per cent - Christie's now offers the most competitive rates of any international auction house.

The cost of selling the average lot at St. James's remains unaltered. At Christie's, South Kensington and at our Glasgow saleroom, where most items fetch less than £500, no Buyer's Premium is charged.

This decision affirms our faith in two things - the importance of maintaining London as the hub of the worldwide auction market. And in ourselves.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Man caught in clash of horsepower

Brian Calam's horse-drawn trips around York landed him in trouble with a Victorian law. As he explained the historic architecture to sightseers in the carriage his horse trotted into an oncoming car.

York magistrates were told yesterday that Calam, aged 36, had overtaken a car parked in Goodrington and into a Ford Fiesta coming the other way.

Mr Michael Taylor, for the defence, said: "The two were both going for the same space at the time. You would have thought that most motorists would have given way to a horse and cart, but not this one."

Calam, of Huntingdon Road, York, admitted driving a horse-drawn carriage so as to damage a motor car and was fined £10.

Dearer power in South-east

The South Eastern Electricity Board proposes to increase charges by up to 9½ per cent from April 1, according to the electricity consultative council.

They claim they have been told the increase will put 33p on the weekly bills of the average consumer using 900 units of electricity a quarter.

A spokesman for the watchdog group described the increases as "fairly moderate on balance". It was not something they favoured, but below the current inflation rate.

Cartoonist is fined £700

Frank Dickens, the Fleet Street cartoonist, aged 49, of the Barbican, was fined £700 at Horseferry Road magistrates' court yesterday, and banned for four years for driving with excess alcohol in his blood. The court was told he had been drinking heavily for five days after being served with divorce papers. He pleaded guilty.

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PARLIAMENT

January 25 1982

Good news for once from British industry

COMMONS

British industry was beginning to get into better shape to bear the competition, Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Industry, said, as part of the Government's industrial strategy. In view of the most recent figures for labour productivity in manufacturing industry.

Mr Jenkins said the latest figures suggested that productivity in manufacturing industry was 9 to 10 per cent higher in the third quarter of 1981 than at the end of 1980. Partly because of the remarkable achievement, and labour cost rises in the United Kingdom were among the lowest of our competitors.

Mr David Knox (Leek, C): Output per head in manufacturing rose by less than 1 per cent in the second quarter of 1979, when the Government came into office, and in the third quarter of 1981, the latest for which figures are available. Looking at it over a longer period, this is really a satisfactory situation?

Mr Jenkins: I am not sure that I recognize his figures. Those for manufacturing industry that he has given show that output per head rose some 10 per cent and output per man-hour by 7½ per cent over the year.

Unit labour costs over the last 12 months have risen in this country more slowly than in all our main industrial competitors. I suggest that as far as we have begun to recover some of the lost competitiveness of earlier years.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby, SDP): The question suggested that the Government has an industrial strategy. I wonder if he can tell us what that is?

Mr Jenkins: I will send him copies of some of my recent speeches. (Laughter)

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C): In the absence of any helpful and sensible contribution from the other side, I would like to accept congratulations, not just to the Government but to management and workforce, for what appears to be good news for the country, which is going in the right direction for once.

Mr Jenkins: I am glad to give credit primarily where it belongs — to the managers and those who work in industry. For having made a start and standing up to a remarkable improvement in productivity at a time of considerable industrial difficulty.

Mr Derek Foster (Bishop Auckland, Lab): Was it the target that manufacturing industry should lose 800,000 people in 18 months? Was it also the target that it should lose 20 per cent of its output in the greatest slump in the last 50 years? It is small wonder that with so

many firms gone out of business, those that remain must work efficiently and thus inevitably increases average productivity.

Mr Jenkins: He is right in the last part of his question. We have had a great deal of concealed unemployment through overmanning, inefficient work practices and excessive practices, so that British industry is not competitive in many sectors.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport, Lab): The steel, motor car and shipbuilding industries are vital to any future as an industrial nation. They have all been run down. If this new capital is to be realized and a return made upon it, the Government could consider import controls to make sure of that.

Mr Jenkins: It would be no help to the increasing competitiveness of British industry if we were to embark upon a wide-ranging programme of import controls, as advocated by the official Opposition. On the essentialness of industries, there is no point in maintaining them just because they exist in whatever part which cannot in the end pay their way.

The Government's and the boards' intention is that we should make these viable industries which can contribute to, rather than a drain upon, the British economy.

Mr Stanley Orme (Chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Salford, West, Lab)): This investment in the public sector has a direct effect on the private sector and creates many thousands of jobs, as we saw recently in the motor industry.

Mr Jenkins: Of course it does. At the same time, with a large part of the support of the public and still currently simulating, which Conservative MPs are entitled to draw attention to say they hope to see an end to it.

BSC costs £2m a day in public funds

EEC industry ministers had agreed to work together to mount a robust defence against possible restrictions by the United States on European steel exports. Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Industry, said there was a question on the daily costs to public funds of the operations of the British Steel Corporation.

During the current financial year (he said) the total external cash requirements for BSC are estimated to average £2m a day.

Mr Raymond Whitney (Wycombe, C): The future of the steel industry in this country and in Europe is likely to lie largely in the high-grade steels and when we can staunch the flow of national wealth revealed in these figures, the sooner are we likely to have an economy able to create long-term, viable jobs.



Jenkins: Better shape.

Orme: BL serious.

Mr Jenkins: I am not sure I go the whole way with him. I agree that there is a great future for the parts of the steel industry which can add value to basic steel products, where they can secure viable markets.

Progress has been made by British Steel in improving productivity in its plants and increasing their efficiency, and with the help of price increases I believe announced will be a long-term future for the British Steel Corporation as a productive, viable steel firm. Of course, there is no reason why this should be a public sector company.

Mr Jenkins: I disagree. This is an unofficial strike by people who are protesting against the rationalization of production in the Leyland group.

I agree that unless good sense reigns very quickly once again we are going to have to have question marks hanging over this whole part of British Leyland. The great majority of men are well aware of that.

Mr Jenkins: He raises an important and disturbing issue. I attended a meeting of Community industry ministers in Brussels on January 13. We agreed unanimously that it was the United States recession rather than prices of European exports which was causing difficulties in American steel-making problems.

We agreed to work together to mount a robust defence against these actions.

Minister will not intervene in BL dispute

Question marks could be hanging over British Leyland unless good sense returned, Mr. Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Industry, said during exchanges on the dispute in BL's bus and truck division.

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on industry

(Salford, West, Lab) said that a serious situation had developed in the bus and truck division of Leyland and that British Leyland should intervene and find out what was the basis of the problem?

Immediate steps should be taken (he said). Thousands of workers are involved. There is no time to waste. I discuss this with management and the work people feel that some action should be taken directly by the Government.

Mr Jenkins: I disagree. This is an unofficial strike by people who are protesting against the rationalization of production in the Leyland group.

I agree that unless good sense reigns very quickly once again we are going to have to have question marks hanging over this whole part of British Leyland. The great majority of men are well aware of that.

Mr Jenkins: The workers are involved and have cooperated over recent years in improving productivity and output. I ask him in the interests of that industry to intervene.

Mr Jenkins: The day-to-day conduct of industrial relations has to be a matter for the management of BL. That was made abundantly clear by Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, when Sir Michael Edwards was appointed, and it has been made clear by every minister since.

I can think of nothing that would be more damaging to the authority of the management of BL if we were to start to take matters out of their hands.

Information reaching me suggests that a large number of the workforce at Bathgate and Leyland are aware of the reality of their position and they have inundated the offices of the company for voluntary redundancy terms. They know perfectly well that this rationalization of men are well aware of that.

Mr Jenkins: My department will be allocated for the training of teachers in the use of computers and for the provision of soft

ware.

Mr Neville Trotter (Tynemouth, C): Asked what progress had been made on the introduction of computers into schools.

Mr Baker: The scheme is being extended to all secondary schools from January this year.

I am very satisfied with the progress of the scheme so far and we are well on the way to reaching the objective of ensuring that every secondary school has at least one micro by the end of 1982.

Mr Thomas Ellis (Wrexham, DPP): Is he extending the list of names of suppliers from two so that other manufacturers may be included?

Mr Baker: The scheme is being extended to all secondary schools from January this year and, as regards manufacturers, I hope that the two existing ones have been selected, but I am considering the possibility of extending the scheme to primary schools and in this case, it will be looked at further.

Mr Baker: £5m for training.

Mr Baker: Research in the United States shows it is the very small firms that supply the greatest number of new jobs. In Britain it is the existing small

firms that have the greater potential for new jobs and therefore it is necessary to raise the upper limit from a modest £75,000 to £500,000 and we would get more jobs if we do that.

Mr MacGregor: We are anxious to increase the contribution of both new and existing small firms to exports to £500,000.

Mr Baker: It will take it into account in the review.

This scheme is going like hot cakes and 1,833 businesses up to the end of last month have been helped under the scheme with £65.6m. I have to take that into account also.

Prosecution policy of DPP

LEGAL

The Director of Public Prosecutions was usually criticized for not prosecuting in enough cases. Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General said when a Conservative MP stressed the importance of public confidence in following recent cases, that the number of prosecutions wherever there was doubt.

Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C), during questions on prosecution policy, had said it is of the utmost importance that the DPP should enjoy full public confidence. Is there not a danger that if we are to retain the reputation of the DPP and his officials, when in doubt, may be to prosecute? If such a maxim or rule of thumb approach were adopted it would be regrettable.

Mr Michael Havers assured that the DPP will continue to base his policy on a careful analysis of the evidence and a balanced assessment of where the public interest lies?

It might be a good idea to revert to the ancient British system, still used in the United States, allowing prosecutions ultimately to be decided on by juries.

Sir Michael Havers: My view

is that the DPP, given to the Royal Commission, will note recent events in Scotland which illustrate that private prosecutions, having not taken place in the last 70 years, show that judicial restrictions on private prosecutions may well influence upon this basic individual right.

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Pay warning for 'ineffective' Telecom staff

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

British Telecom has disclosed that its field engineers average only three visits a day, less than half the figure achieved in the United States and up to half their time is spent "ineffectively".

Pay rises for 250,000 employees will be "extremely difficult to justify" this year, the state enterprise says.

In a "state of the business" message to management and some union officials, Sir George Jefferson, British Telecom chairman, paints a picture of serious overmanning, inflexible work practices, luxurious office accommodation and staff being paid more than their work deserves.

But he admits: "Management must bear the main responsibility for most of what is wrong — and for putting it right, with the help of unions and staff". Otherwise British Telecom would be in a weak position to face competition, he insists.

Revealing that BT's running costs rose at double last year's rate of inflation, Sir George points out that staff levels and wages grew by 18 per cent in 1979-80 and by 31 per cent in 1980-81, far outstripping growth, which is expected to decline from 4.6 per cent last year to 3.5 per cent in 1981-82.

In a catalogue of labour inefficiency, the chairman complains of:

"out-of-date methods of work; over 40 per cent of field supervisors' time is spent on paperwork"; inter-union arguments on operating computer terminals in mixed clerical/engineering areas.

Time-wasting in putting in telephones. "For every two hours spent on installation in the field, one hour is spent in control room plant allocations and replacements."

"The number of survey officers has remained unchanged for 20 years, although the need for them has reduced. In the United States, AT & T installation and maintenance staff average seven visits a week compared with our average of three."

Ineffective time still represents 40 per cent of the cost of external works.

Excessive manning levels in telephone exchange maintenance

Hungarian hero rests in peace

From Our Correspondent Ludlow

Hungarian emigres in Britain have won a long battle to ensure that the remains of their national hero should be undisturbed in a Herefordshire country churchyard.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has told the Hungarian Ambassador that he will not allow the communist regime to exhume General Lazar Meszaros, who has come to symbolize Hungary's fight for freedom from oppression.

General Meszaros was defence minister and commander-in-chief of the Hungarian army defeated by the invading Austrian and Russian forces in 1848-49. He fled to Britain and died at Tilney, near Kington, north Herefordshire, in 1858.

Mr Peter Temple-Morris, the Conservative MP for Leominster, has disclosed that the Hungarian Government refused to accept a ruling by the Home Secretary in 1980 that General Meszaros could not be exhumed for reburial in Budapest.

Two more applications have been made and Mr Temple-Morris says expatriate Hungarians feared Hungary's communist government would use "back door methods" to achieve the exhumation.

Mr Temple-Morris protested to the Home Office and the Foreign Office, and has been told by Lord Trefgarne, Parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Foreign Office, that Mr Whitelaw has given a final "no" to the Hungarian government. Lord Trefgarne said Mr Whitelaw would need "new and compelling evidence" to reopen the case.

The Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation in Britain, the Mindzenty Foundation (UK) and the general's last living relative, a great niece living in New York, had all opposed exhumation.

The general's grave has become a shrine and a service is to be held on March 15 each year.

Skinhead killed rival fan

A skinhead football supporter whose punch killed a young Leeds supporter was jailed for three years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Keith Wilks, aged 19, a warehouseman, of Manor Road, Tottenham, north London, was convicted of manslaughter of Jeremy Burton, aged 18, who died in hospital from a fractured skull and brain damage.

Judge Charles Lawson, QC, told Wilks: "You induced me in the sort of despicable violence that every decent citizen condemns. Because of what you did another young life was wasted."

The judge added that he had to make clear to other football hooligans that they could expect condign punishment. He hoped the death would be on Wilks's conscience for the rest of his life.

Miss Ann Curnow, for the prosecution, said Jeremy Burton, of Bracken Drive, Bradford, and other Leeds supporters were making their way to match at White Hart Lane on February 7 last when they were ambushed by Wilks and a gang of Tottenham youths, who rushed at them from a council estate.

The youth was felled by a blow to the jaw which sent him crashing to the roadway, striking his head. He died four days later.

Wilks said he acted in self-defence when attacked by Leeds supporters.

Left-winger to carry on Scargill tradition

From Ronald Kershaw, Barnsley

Yorkshire miners have voted overwhelmingly for a left-wing area president to succeed Mr Arthur Scargill when he takes over as national president of the National Union of Mineworkers in April.

Mr Jack Taylor, vice-president of Yorkshire NUM, collected 22,188 votes in a 66 per cent poll, some 13,000 more than his nearest rival, Mr Jim Walsh, the union's moderate North Yorkshire area agent, who had 9,125. Mr John Stones, polled 3,962 votes and Mr Albert Barlow 1,752.

Mr Taylor made clear that he would continue the policies advocated by Mr Scargill, who expressed delight and observed that Mr Taylor was not only a close friend but also "a man who shares my views of what this union is all about."

He said: "I am sure the combination of a national president and the president of the Yorkshire miners working together will be infinitely better than a president of the Yorkshire miners fighting on behalf of the union and a national president sabotaging the union," a reference to the intervention of Mr Joseph Gormley, retiring president, in the recent wages ballot.

Furthermore, they enjoyed "over-generous" accommodation, compared with commercial firms, particularly with so many HQ staff in London. Staff also enforced uneconomic substitution rules, regardless of availability of competent junior staff on the spot, and there were "slow and expensive promotion and appointment procedures, with seniority often more influential than merit".

Sir George has told the management to put their house in order, and gives a warning: "I cannot guarantee that there will never be redundancies. This will depend on the success of the business and how effective we are in making the necessary changes."

Protest on smoking publicity

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Service Correspondent

Westminster City Council has started allowing cigarette manufacturers to advertise their products on parking meters. For this facility the council is guaranteed a minimum £10,000 a year revenue.

Its decision was condemned yesterday as disgraceful by Sir Douglas Black, president of the Royal College of Physicians, and Dr Keith Taylor, director-general of the Health Education Council.

Dr Taylor said: "The fact that any official body is willing to adopt this strategy for any amount of money is outrageous when the dangers of smoking are so well-known. It will bring closer the day we make cigarette advertising illegal".

Mr Roland Moyle, Labour MP for Lewisham, East, and a former Labour health spokesman, who said he was appalled at the decision, has written to Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health, to complain.

He says in his letter: "I regard this practice by the Westminster City Council as deplorable on the part of anybody, but particularly appalling when undertaken by a body which has health responsibilities to the public in general".

He asks Dr Vaughan to approach the local government associations to draw up an agreement which would stop tobacco sponsorship by local government."

Mr Moyle has also complained to the city council. Mr David Witty, the council's chief executive, has replied that the council's contractor would ensure that the advertisements conformed to the Advertising Standards Authority's code of practice.

The council said yesterday: "The advertising of cigarettes is permitted on outdoor media, and as long as it is, I do not see why we should ban it". The rates charged vary from £1.25 to £2 a week.

You can ask Charlie McDermott. He's IBM.

"IBM has been in Greenock for 30 years now and I've been with them for the last 25."

I started off making sub-assemblies, working with all kinds of people. There were fishermen and shop assistants. IBM would send them on courses or give them classroom instruction at the factory until the job was mastered. Then, as the jobs changed with the technology, people were retrained to do new things.

I went on courses myself. The work at the IBM Greenock factory kept changing and so did my interests. From sub-assemblies I went into quality control. First as an inspector to look for what was wrong and then as an analyst to understand

why things sometimes go wrong. Then I tried personnel, and I moved into management. That's seven jobs in all.

As a manager I know at IBM we never say, "Well, I'm sorry, but that machine is phasing out and we need someone with better skills. So goodbye and good luck". No, we help the person get better skills.

Part of my job is to encourage people. There are procedures to make sure that people don't get neglected or overlooked.

It's more competitive in the company now than when I started. That's because technology demands better skills than it used to. But, if a young person were to join us today, I could truthfully tell him or her that there's every chance of having as varied and interesting a career as I've had.

After all, who else could have

offered me seven different careers — all here in the Greenock factory?"

Charlie McDermott, IBM UK

IBM in Britain:

- 15,000 jobs in over 50 locations
- Two factories in Greenock and Havant
- A major development laboratory near Winchester
- £452 million exports in 1980
- £132 million invested in 1980.

For further information, please write to External Communications

Department, IBM United Kingdom Limited, P.O. Box 41, North Harbour, Portsmouth, Hants. PO6 3AU

Crack shot admits poaching charge

From a Correspondent King's Lynn

One of Britain's top marksmen admitted poaching when he appeared at King's Lynn yesterday.

Christopher Jary aged 18, of Tennyson Avenue, Kings Lynn, one of this country's brightest prospects in the next Olympics, was fined £75. His solicitor asked the magistrates to allow him to keep his gun and his shotgun certificate so that he could continue his training for the 1984 Olympics. Sergeant Ivan Jordan for the prosecution said Jary was stopped by police after he had been seen speeding. An officer saw him throw something heavy over a hedge and when he investigated he found a Browning 12 bore shotgun, worth £600. In the back of the car he saw six cock pheasants and numerous 12-bore cartridges.

Mr Ben Pearson, for the defence, said Jary had been talking about the new shooting season and he got over-enthusiastic. He went out in broad daylight.

Mr Pearson added that Jary had to practice every day and if his shotgun certificate was lost it would jeopardise his place in the squad. "His future is in your hands", he told the magistrates, who ordered the pheasants and cartridges to be forfeited. They decided that the gun would not be confiscated.



Handing over: Mr Arthur Scargill (right) with Jack Taylor, his successor as Yorkshire's NUM president

principal offices at Manvers main colliery branch, South Yorkshire, before becoming area vice-president. He likes golf and serious music and supports Sheffield United, but does not shout about it.

Mr Taylor said he would continue increasing the union's participation in political matters. "If we need to be political to defend our members' living standards, then we will be political."

Mr Taylor proposes to continue the Yorkshire area policy of holding miners' caucus meetings to attract union members to the right place at the right time for

meetings. He also made clear that he felt that some objection to the ballot procedure was due on behalf of members, although he always accepted ballot results.

"The policies of this union are made by the members and I shall carry out the progressive policies we have carried out over the last three years," he said.

He would work with Mr Scargill and other area officials to bring the NUM under one umbrella. Of Mr Scargill he said: "We genuinely believe in the same ends. As to achieving those ends, my methods might be different but I think we will sort it out 'one way or another'."

Mr Walsh said yesterday "I consider it was unfair on the membership, not on the candidates". Mr Walsh said.

Mr Taylor's reaction was that the option of speaking at various meetings was open to Mr Walsh and any other candidate. Mr Scargill denied any suggestion that the election had not been fair. It had been conducted on the same lines as every other election.

He said that Mr Taylor had had a head start because he had appeared with Mr Scargill on platforms speaking in the wages debate and had received much exposure in the *Yorkshire Miner* newspaper.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

US used defoliants in Laos

New York.—In the middle of campaign by the United States against attention to Soviet use of chemical warfare in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Laos comes a disclosure that the Americans conducted secret raids into Laos to spray herbicides in the jungle and in food growing areas (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The disclosure comes in an official Air Force history which has been obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. It makes it clear that raids into Laos, and the openly undertaken spraying in Vietnam were only authorized at the highest levels.

The defoliants used on Laos are not specified in the history, but it does say that generally in South-East Asia the Air Force used combinations of phenoxy herbicides including Agent Orange. Vietnam veterans claim that Agent Orange has been responsible for liver damage, nervous disorders, birth defects in their children and cancer.

American officials, including Mr Dean Rusk, then Secretary of State, and Mr Robert McNamara, the secretary of Defence, were allegedly part of a general conspiracy to deceive the public.

Plea for peace in Eritrea

Nairobi.—Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, the Ethiopian leader, who called yesterday on the Eritrean secessionists who have been fighting for independence from Ethiopia for 20 years to "forget the past and join hands with the Ethiopian masses".

The Mengistu Government recently claimed that the guerrilla war in Eritrea was virtually over. The rebel groups deny the claim. Colonel Mengistu's call, made during a three-hour broadcast from Asmara, marks a significant change in the Government's approach to the secessionist war.

Dozier shown with beard

Rome.—The Red Brigades released a communiqué and a new photograph of General James Dozier, the kidnapped American, informed sources said.

The communiqué, the fifth since the kidnapping of General Dozier from his home in Verona on December 17, and the photograph showing him with a long beard, were found in Rome after a telephone call to the *Giovane d'Italia*.

An editor at the newspaper said the document neither set demands for General Dozier's release nor gave any information about his fate. It contained only ideological slogans.

Crash Boeing lost speed

Washington.—The Air Florida Boeing 737 which crashed here killing 78 people took 15 seconds longer than the normal half-minute to take off (Nicholas Hirst writes).

Investigators using information from the aircraft's "black box" flight recorder have determined that it gained the speed necessary for take-off of 144 knots but reached a maximum speed of only 147 knots and an altitude of only 337 ft.

Mr Francis McAdams, who is leading the inquiry, would not speculate on why the aircraft lost speed after leaving the runway and failed to climb normally.

Khmer Rouge reject coalition

Singapore.—The Khmer Rouge has rejected Singapore's proposal for a loose coalition of Cambodians opposed to the Vietnamese presence. Mr Long Sary, its Foreign Minister, has written to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) rejecting the proposals put to them two months ago.

Bani-Sadr's helpers arrested in Iran

A number of Mujahedin guerrillas have been arrested in Iran in connexion with the escape to France last July of former president Bani-Sadr. The Islamic Republic News Agency said that the guerrillas had infiltrated an air force base to help Mr Bani-Sadr and Mr Masoud Rajavi, the Mujahedin leader to flee.

Poland: Brussels talks; Warsaw Pact exercise; resistance group

EEC seeks credit squeeze on Moscow

From Ian Murray
Brussels, Jan 25

European foreign ministers were seeking tonight an agreement on a credit squeeze on the Soviet Union to underline their protest about Moscow's involvement in establishing military rule in Poland.

During their informal meeting in Brussels, the EEC ministers discussed re-examining the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to increase the export credit rate available to the Soviet Union for its purchases from the West. This would mean upgrading the Soviet Union from an "intermediate" to a "relatively rich country" within the organization's definitions. It would increase the cost of Soviet loans of up to five years from 10.5 per cent to 11 per cent and for long term loans from 11 per cent to 11.25 per cent. This could put up the cost to the Soviet Union of funding the controversial gas pipeline from Siberia to West Germany by £300m a year in interest charges.

Poland was only discussed briefly during the foreign ministers' informal meeting, but Greece did indicate that it was not entirely happy about the sanctions idea. Greece is expected to voice its disapproval more formally during tomorrow's regular session of the Council of Ministers.

Tomorrow's meeting is also likely to approve a Commission proposal that £18m set aside for subsidizing food prices for Poland should instead be made available for charities bringing humanitarian aid to the Polish people. There will also be a review of work carried out by technical experts of the Commission into the effect of imposing import restrictions on Soviet goods.

Officials monitoring today's meeting felt that there was insufficient progress during discussions about Poland for any complete package of European sanctions to be ready in the very near future. A further discussion on the package is to be held by officials at Nato on Wednesday and it will be subject to a further review at Nato again a week later.

Vienna: Ground and air forces of three Warsaw pack



Father and child walking in Warsaw. Martial law may be lifted by the end of February, General Jaruzelski said yesterday; but he emphasized it would be extended if the authorities faced serious opposition

countries today began a five-day exercise in western Czechoslovakia (David Blow writes). The exercise, which is codenamed Druzhba 82, involves 25,000 troops from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and the Soviet Union.

The officially-stated purpose is to rehearse combined procedures for repulsing an attack from the West in winter conditions. Nato sources in Brussels said that the manoeuvres were of no special significance.

■ Warsaw: Fugitive Solidarity activists have set up an all-Poland resistance steering committee to coordinate industrial protests (Roger Boyes writes). According to a communiqué that has reached Western correspondents, members of the Solidarity National Commission still at large met on January 13 to discuss tactics in future underground actions.

The committee rejected government attempts to form a new, non-political trade union and said that their group would act as an interim organization until Solidarity was allowed to re-emerge in its old form.

The communiqué gave three conditions that would have to be met before they would agree to a new union: an end to martial law, the release of all internees and a firm and enduring commitment to dialogue with Solidarity.

The communiqué was un-signed and it is not clear who took part in the meeting though it said that all

Journalist freed

Mr Greg Miskiw, the Sunday Mirror journalist who spent Christmas and New Year in a Polish jail on charges of entering the country illegally, is being permitted to return to London today or tomorrow after paying bail of £5,000, consular officials said in Warsaw. The bail was set pending the outcome of his appeal against a suspended sentence and fine.

Altho all attempts to regroup Solidarity have been underground, their statements have been surprisingly moderate. The letter from the Cracow underground Solidarity addressed to the Pope, for example, explicitly renounced the use of violence.

The all-Poland communiqué did not do this but, its three stated conditions for the resumption of dialogue with the Government are not

members of the Solidarity National Commission at large were present. According to preliminary reports, 90 out of 107 members were rounded up in the initial police raids in Gdańsk on the night martial law was declared.

Some have been arrested subsequently. The most senior member of the union still free is Mr Zbigniew Bujak, head of the Warsaw region, who presumably attended the meeting. The leader of the new organization was codenamed Mieszczański, the first king of Poland, in the tenth century.

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The all-Poland communiqué did not do this but, its three stated conditions for the resumption of dialogue with the Government are not

dissimilar to views being expressed by Polish bishops.

Budapest: Hungary is apprehensive about the repercussions of the Polish crisis on East-West relations and might have on the domestic situation (Dessa Treviran writes).

The 25-year contract, signed in the face of calls by the United States for reduced trade with the Soviet Union, was attacked as inopportune by the CFDT trade union confederation, the Government's main union ally.

"Without any doubt, this operation weakens the impact of the policy of France and its European partners towards the Polish situation and the strategy of the Soviet Union," a senior official said.

Le Monde said that the

Mitterrand's Soviet gas deal attacked

Paris, Jan 25—Criticism was mounting today over the big French gas contract with the Soviet Union announced yesterday, as France approached agreement with Algeria on a similar deal.

Industry sources said the state firm Gaz de France (GDF) was on the verge of settling a two-year disagreement on a new gas price with

the Soviet Union's Sonatrach company, clearing the way for it to double cubic metres a year.

Taken together, the new Algerian contract and the accord signed on Friday with the Soviet Union for supplies from a planned Siberian pipeline will ensure about 55 per cent of France's gas needs in the second half of this decade.

While the Algerian deal is expected to go through without controversy, the contract with Moscow has provoked condemnation from both right-wing and left-wing critics who see it conflicting with France's attitude to events in Poland.

M. Jacques Chirac, re-elected this weekend as leader of the neo-Gaullist RPR Party and effectively leader of France's opposition, said the Socialists no longer have the right to speak to the Poles about human rights and hope.

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"Without any doubt, this operation weakens the impact of the policy of France and its European partners towards the Polish situation and the strategy of the Soviet Union," a senior official said.

Le Monde said that the

agreement, under which France will receive an additional 8 billion cubic metres of gas a year from 1984, would confirm for the Polish people that "they have nothing left to hope for from the West except for a few charitable gestures."

The normally pro-socialist newspaper, *Le Matin*, pointed

President Mitterrand's government has been one of the most outspoken among the Western allies in its condemnation of martial law.

Poland, and has held the Soviet Union responsible.

Political sources said that M. Mitterrand and his ministers have decided that France needed the Soviet gas for economic reasons and resolved to go ahead with the contract, while emphasizing that it had no bearing on France's overall position towards the Kremlin.

Critical press commentators suggested today that this was in the tradition of French governments since President de Gaulle established the country's "privileged" relationship with Moscow over 20 years ago.

The sources said that M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, was expected to give a public explanation of the gas decision within the next few days. In the only public comment so far by a member of government, M. Jacques Delors, the finance minister, said last night that the gas deal, which follows a similar contract between Moscow and West Germany last year, reflected France's desire to diversify its energy sources.

Total Algerian and Soviet gas imports will represent about 10 per cent of the country's energy needs in 1990, according to Gaz de France statistics. — Reuter,

Leading article, page 11

Business News, page 13

Gaullist resurgence

Emphasis on new men and ideals for France

From Charles Hargrove, Toulouse, Jan 25

Something is obviously beginning to change in the rather old Gaullist message and movement, after years of the wear and tear of power.

This change, together with the party's rediscovered unity (after the internal clashes caused by Giscard), and the firm conviction that it is now the spearhead of the opposition, was the hallmark of the party's weekend congress in Toulouse. It showed conspicuously in the meeting's setting, its style and its speeches.

Symbolic of the change at this congress was a tricolour abstract by a well-known painter,

Moretti, representing "France in movement" and adorning either side of a huge Kremlin-like rostrum.

There were the portraits of General de Gaulle and the Cross of Lorraine. Instead, the party's new slogan, "Freedom, Progress", was much in evidence and among those who addressed the congress, there was a majority of the younger leaders of the party with a new, refreshingly direct and frank approach, both to its problems and its opportunities.

The old Gaullist Party is turning into a younger, closer knit, dynamic party, rid to a large extent of its trailing clouds of glory and of its aging potentates, which M. Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, and his bright young men now have well in hand. M. Chirac's overwhelming, rather East European-style reelection as president at the Toulouse Congress with 99.15 per cent of the vote, shows

One of the most striking innovations was the organization of discussion groups on means of day-to-day democracy, such as: "The school of tomorrow"; "Who speaks in the name of the party"; "Bureaucracy, a creeping disease" and; "What use is the family?" Ordinary militants could, and did, speak up, criticizing party policy and leadership and calling for more drive and concern for down-to-earth problems.

These discussion groups held together in a huge exhibition hall, next to the one where the congress proper took place, were rather a flop technically, degenerating into an impossible hubbub of voices amplified by loudspeakers.

But they were a convincing exercise in party democracy, designed to convey the impression of a dynamic, popular movement, with strong grassroots, which was embarking on a new resistance battle on nationalization. He proclaimed: "Here and now, Frenchmen have entered

Congress to face up to controversy

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington, Jan 25

The ninety-seventh Congress resumed today after its long Christmas recess to face a busy agenda which will again be dominated by economic issues. However, controversial social questions, such as the Voting Rights Act, school prayer and abortion, will no longer be set aside as they were during 1981 and are likely to be broached early in the session.

The Administration is confronted by the formidable task of trying to keep the budget deficit below the \$100,000m (£50,000m) mark.

The most important immediate issue facing Congress will be the 1983 Budget, which President Reagan is due to submit early next month. The President is understood to have decided on \$31,000m in spending cuts for the next fiscal year, more than half of which is to come from domestic programmes.

But after initially accepting a plan to raise excise taxes last week, the President has had second thoughts about tax increases. Administration sources say:

Debate on the social issues is likely to strain Republican unity which held together remarkably well during 1981. The right-wingers are expected to try to force the party on to a more conservative track.

Other major issues will include Senate consideration of Senator Harrison Williams, who is facing expulsion because of his conviction in the Abscam scandal; revision of the Clean Air Act; dismantling of the Department of Education and Energy; tightening of the Freedom of Information Act; and legislation to curb the powers of independent regulatory agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission.

Grain flop threatens livestock

Moscow, Jan 25.—The

Soviet Union's grain harvest last year may have been well below Western forecasts, and could lead to the slaughter of livestock because of fodder shortages, Western agricultural experts said here today.

The 1981 economic report published on Saturday had shown that in almost everything but cotton it had been one of the worst years since 1964.

For the first time in many years the authorities failed to print figures for the grain harvest. This "seems to indicate that the figure is in fact painfully below the 175 million tonnes mark" predicted by the United States Department of Agriculture, the experts said.

Now it might be necessary to slaughter some livestock. This was the third poor harvest in a row, and the previous two years had left very few fodder reserves.

Transport facilities limited grain imports to 43 million tonnes, and most of that would be needed for people.

DRIVE BY LISBON FOR EEC ENTRY

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 25

Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Portuguese Prime Minister, is in Brussels today at the start of an "offensive" to ensure his country enters the EEC early in 1984 regardless of what happens about Spain. The initiative will take him round all the EEC capitals.

Both Portugal and Spain have long ago had a rivalry over who enters the EEC first. Both within a few months made their formal applications almost five years ago.

What is worrying Lisbon is that the growing resistance to Spanish membership both in Spain and among some Community countries will limit the "grand design" of joining to which all Portugal's democratic parties are committed.

Much Portuguese effort is being spent on resisting any lumping together of this country's entry negotiations with those of Spain. An additional element of suspicion between the two Iberian capitals concerns Spain joining Nato.



Rudolf Nureyev, the Russian born dancer who defected in 1961, receiving his certificate of Austrian citizenship from Herr Leopold Gratz, Mayor of Vienna, yesterday.

Crew 'lied about attack'

By Our Foreign Staff

Japanese maritime safety officials have accused members of the crew of a Japanese chemical tanker of lying about a recent attack on their vessel by Philippines air force fighters.

The 5,307 ton tanker, the Hegg, was strafed off Mindanao Island in the southern Philippines 10 days ago. A crew was seriously wounded.

According to the Kyodo news agency, Mr. Hideo Takakura, the captain of the Hegg, and the 21 other crew originally told maritime safety officials that the ship had been flying the Japanese flag when it was strafed and the no warning to stop had been received.

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ackedNEWS IN
SUMMARY**Kenya MP
shot dead
in ambush**

Nairobi. — Gunmen shot dead Mr Alex Isaka Umuo, a Kenya MP, when they ambushed his car in a remote area of northern Kenya yesterday, the official Kenya News Agency reported.

It quoted a survivor of the dusk attack as saying that eight men in army uniforms and with rifles fired a flare and then poured a hail of bullets into the MP's car. One survivor, Mr Bundi Murianki, said the MP died instantly. Six other passengers in the vehicle fled unharmed into the bush.

The incident took place near Marsabit, 250 miles north of Nairobi in Kenya's north-eastern province, scene of bandit activity in recent years.

**Former slave
dies aged 119**



Bunnell, Florida — Mr Ike Ward, a woodcutter born a slave on a Virginia plantation on Christmas Day 1862, when Abraham Lincoln was president, has died here aged 119, one day after he entered a nursing home for the first time.

He was married 16 times and outlived all his wives. For the past five years he was looked after by Miss Rachel Hall, a 62-year-old cousin. He had worked, ploughing his own one-acre plot, until two weeks ago.

He was always in perfect health, never used a walking stick or wore glasses.

**£50m scheme to
save Sahel**

Praia, Cape Verde Islands. — General Moussa Traore, the Malian head of state, has complained that after an initial burst of enthusiasm, the world's rich countries had lost interest in saving West Africa's Sahel region from drought and desertification.

He spoke after a meeting of an eight-nation committee which decided to build up emergency food stocks for the region.

The £50m plan, backed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, will be finalized in Rome in March between the Sahel states and Western donor countries.

**Vote on Koivisto
as President**

Helsinki. — Finland's Council of Electors will meet today to confirm Dr Mauno Koivisto's election as the country's next president.

The electors theoretically can vote up to three times, but Mr Koivisto, who is 57, is certain to receive more than the 151 votes needed for victory in the 301-strong Council of Electors in the first round. He controls 145 Social Democratic and independent electors and the 22 electors of the Communist party's Euro-Communist wing have decided to vote for him. A moderate Social Democrat, he will be Finland's first Socialist President.

**Belgian pirates
jam air waves**

Brussels. — Angry Belgian radio pirates have begun a war of the air waves by jamming output from the national French language network in Brussels (Ian Murray writes). They were protesting against the seizure by police last week of broadcasting equipment used by four pirate stations.

The Belgian Independent Radio Group used vans with jamming equipment which toured the capital.

**Court told of £300m
traffic in heroin**

Palermo. — Seventy-six alleged Mafia heroin traffickers were sent for trial here charged with criminal association, trafficking in illegal drugs and other crimes.

Sigmar Giovanni Falcone, the investigating magistrate, said heroin traded through Sicily to the United States had made the group about \$600m (nearly £300m).

Miro leaves hospital

Palma de Mallorca. — Joan Miro, the Spanish painter, aged 89, left hospital after two weeks during which he had a pacemaker fitted.

Six die in crashes

Parma. — Six people died and 50 were injured in car crashes in the fog on the motorway known as the "Superhighway of the Sun" near here in northern Italy.

**Egypt takes first
step to better
Soviet relations**

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, Jan 25

The announcement by Egypt that 66 Soviet technical advisers will be coming to Egypt is the first big step towards normalizing relations between the countries, now at an all-time low.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told *The Times* that the technicians had been requested by industrial sectors which were set up with Soviet assistance in the 1960s. That was the time of the Soviet-Egyptian honeymoon which came to a sudden halt when the then President Sadat expelled 17,000 military advisers.

Mr Sadat took a second harsh stand against Moscow in September, a month before his assassination, when he expelled the Soviet Ambassador and six top diplomats on the grounds that they were fomenting Christian-Muslim strife.

Seven hundred technicians working on the Aswan High Dam, the Helwan iron and steel complex and the aluminium factory in Upper Egypt were also ejected.

Mr Kamal Hassan Aly, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, told *The Times* the technicians would be returning "only for a specific period — to install the stalled Palestinian peace talks and his expected trip to the United States, France, Britain and West Germany next week."

They would be continuing the original term of their contracts. He did not know how long they would stay or when they would start arriving.

Egypt did not expect to exchange ambassadors with Moscow soon, despite speculation to the contrary. "It

**Gaddafi mystery
in Tunisia**

Tunis, Jan 25. — Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader is reported to have left Tunisia by road for Libya after meeting Mr Muhammad Mzali, the Prime Minister, and other ministers during a surprise visit to Tunisia.

As the discussions began two leading Saudi daily newspapers pinpointed Iran as the main threat to stability in the area, and called for the assembly of a strike force to combat the threat posed by Tehran's Islamic fundamentalist leaders.

The ministers from Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates met in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, and Mr Mzali was on a tour of southern Tunisia.

Tunisian officials appeared to be embarrassed by the visit although it is believed that Colonel Gaddafi had sent word from Algiers on Saturday night. President Habib Bourguiba, in the United States for medical treatment and Mr Mzali was on a tour of southern Tunisia.

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They were asked by their heads of state last November to define priorities for ensuring the independence and sovereignty of member states, who produce about 11.5 million barrels of oil daily. They are expected to study recommendations by their chiefs of staff for joint air defence systems, arms procurement policies and armament plants.

The council was formed last May to face what the six states saw as threats from the Soviet military presence in Afghanistan, the Iranian revolution and the Iraq-Iran war.

Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, the Saudi Defence Minister was quoted by the Saudi-based *Arab news* as saying that the ministers were opposed to arms standardization "because the idea of depending on a single source of weapons is rejected".

The six, whose defence budget this year comes to about £15,000m, buy arms mainly from the United States, Britain and France.

Nimeiry rides the storm in Sudan

By Andrew Lyett

Sir James Robertson, one of the last and most respected British administrators in Sudan, once said that to understand Sudanese politics you had either to be a prophet or a fool.

President Jaafar Nimeiry, is neither. He is a tough, competent soldier who against all odds has governed the largest and potentially most divisive country in Africa for over 12 years.

Earlier this month it seemed President Nimeiry's knack of shuffling the political cards in Sudan and still remaining on top of the pack might be deserting him. Riots swept Khartoum and provincial cities in the wake of the President's decision to raise sugar prices by more than 60 per cent. There were also reported disturbances in the South after the detention of prominent regional politicians.

Since then the atmosphere has cooled. The death last weekend of Sherif el-Hindi, leader of the Sudanese opposition in exile, failed to incite insurrection in Khartoum. President Nimeiry scored something of a political relations coup by announcing the death of his adversary himself on Sudanese radio.

In another move, President Nimeiry also yesterday dissolved the top levels of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU), the country's sole legal political party and launched a sweeping internal review of the organization (AFP reports).

The President explained that the new measures were designed to ensure broader participation by the people in the process of national construction and to ensure collective responsibility "at this crucial point that our nation is passing through".

He has also turned his attention to foreign policy matters, reaching an important understanding with President Goukouni Oueddeï of Chad to halt Sudan's support for the guerrilla activities of Hissene Habre in eastern Chad and to tone down his propaganda campaign against Libya.

This appearance of business as usual indicates that



Warsaw Pact winter exercises begin

Carrington attacked

**Britain upsets both
Israel and PLO**

From Edward Mortimer, Beirut, Jan 25

A British Foreign Secretary's lot is not a happy one or not in the Middle East anyway. In Israel Lord Carrington is likely to encounter demonstrations by Israeli infidels by what they regard as his "undistinguished support for many of the aims of the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Yet at PLO offices in Beirut, the visiting British journalist is greeted by a barrage of complaints about Lord Carrington's performance, particularly during the second half of last year, when he was President of the EEC council of Ministers.

The complaints were voiced with particular earnestness, more in sorrow than anger, by Dr Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, the PLO executive member responsible for European Arab dialogue.

When Britain assumed the EEC presidency in July, Dr Dajani said in an interview that the Arabs were optimistic about Lord Carrington's personality, but the six months passed "without any small positive deed from the presidency towards a comprehensive settlement".

He asked why Lord Carrington kept imposing conditions on him and Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, whereas the Foreign Secretary was now going to visit Israel, without conditions, "after Israel has annexed Golan, has bombed Beirut, has tortured our people, and so many things?"

Dr Dajani asked why Lord Carrington had not continued the contacts with the PLO leadership maintained by his predecessors in the EEC chair.

The demand for "a signal towards recognition of Israel" was unreasonable, Dr Dajani said, since Israel did not recognize the PLO and its leaders had declared frankly that they would have no dealings with the PLO even if it did recognize Israel.

Mr Arafat and the PLO leaders had made it abundantly clear in recent years that their aim was a peaceful settlement, including an independent Palestinian state.

Dr Dajani said Palestinians were being subjected by Israel to measures such as detention without trial and the blowing up of houses, under laws introduced in Palestine by Britain.

He deplored the fact that no "official voice" had been heard saying that these laws had been a mistake, or that such punishments could not be justified by British laws in present circumstances.

**Bethlehem mayor
politically isolated**

Jerusalem. — Mr Elias Freij, the elected Arab mayor of Bethlehem, today found himself politically isolated after most of the leading mayors in the occupied West Bank rejected his weekend call for the PLO to launch its own peace initiative and representatives of the Palestinians.

Added fuel was given to the rumours in November when Mr Deng, the top surviving victim of the Cultural Revolution who was disgraced twice by Mao Tse-tung, appeared in public for the first time accompanied by a nurse.

However, Signor Vittorio Colombo, the Italian Christian Democratic Party Vice-Secretary, who has since had a meeting with Mr Deng, said he was in good shape. His last reported public activity was on January 12 when he and other leaders met delegates at a conference on political work in the Army.

One of the strongest reactions came from Mr Bassam Shakka, the mayor of Nablus, the largest West Bank town, and a long-standing PLO supporter. "Mr Freij's call is a continuation of the Camp David logic which harms peace in the region, the peace of the Palestinians and of the whole world," he stated.

Mr Shakka, who was maimed by a car bomb in 1980, described Mr Freij's Israel radio interview as a surrender to Israel and American pressure and said that they should first recognize the PLO.

The opposition expressed by Mr Shakka was shared by a number of other prominent West Bank mayors, including Mr Karim Khalaf of Ramallah, who was also injured in the 1980 car bomb attacks.

**Fears for
health of
Deng grow**

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 25

In a remarkably candid speech on the eve of India's Republic Day President Sanjiva Reddy tonight deplored the growth of violence and corruption in the country.

He spoke of "consequences too frightening to contemplate" if faith in the political system were further eroded, and rued the decay of "the noble spirit" of Mahatma Gandhi.

The speech, broadcast on All-India Radio, was notable for its strong element of anxiety and disappointment, which animated the nation only a few decades ago. Why is that this pessimistic attitude has overtaken our society?

Like many Indians, President Reddy was asking "Where and why have we gone wrong?" Above all, his critique voiced the disappointment felt in a section of the older generation who worked for, or were inspired by, Gandhi in the years of the independence struggle.

On the credit side his speech listed India's agricultural and industrial achievements, but it referred to the plight of poor farmers and of large numbers of urban poor living in squalor.

He spoke of the growing tendency to violence, saying that "values and sanctions which enabled us to live together in peace (now) appear to be losing their hold. Respect for older and

**Corruption deplored
by Indian President**

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Jan 25

the sanctity of life and property seem no longer to guide our conduct."

In a reference to murders of Harijans (former untouchables) he said he was perturbed by frequent atrocities.

He recalled the spirit of the independence movement, saying many responded to Gandhi's call without sacrifice involved.

"What we find today is the antithesis of the noble spirit which animated the nation only a few decades ago. Why is that this pessimistic attitude has overtaken our society?"

President Reddy said he had talked about disturbing features of the national scene because he wanted to give a warning that if action were not taken to arrest the disregard of moral values in public life, "faith in our political system will be undermined with consequences too frightening to contemplate."

In words meant to be reflected on, he said that people should act according to the constitution. Any attempt to transgress its limits would only lead to confusion.

The presidency in India is an apolitical figurehead function, and President Reddy's frank comments will no doubt provoke criticism for that reason, if not others. Mrs Indira Gandhi, The Prime Minister, may not like considering that she has led the country for 12 of its 34 independent years.

**DRUG WAR
VICTORY
CLAIMED**

From David Watts
Singapore, Jan 25

The Thai military is claiming an important victory against the principle opium dealer in the Golden Triangle after five days of fighting at the edge of the area.

The fighting began late last week when the Thais engaged Chang Chifu's Burmese separatist Shan United Army in north-west Thailand close to the Burmese border.

By tonight they claimed to have killed 90 of Chang's men, wounded twice that number and captured one of his most important strongholds with a large cache of weapons. Security forces lost 17 dead.

Western diplomats and military men in Thailand, however, treat the Thai claims with some scepticism.

According to the Thais their forces captured some 307 tons of ammunition and 4,000 weapons.

**Dissent rumbles on as
Spanish MP quits**

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Jan. 25

With cracks appearing in Spain's leading political parties, Señor Francisco Soler, MP for Almeria, confirmed today in a radio broadcast that he plans to quit the ruling Socialist Democratic Union (UCD) because he "cannot identify with its performance".

President Nimeiry has tried to give his economic measures street-level credibility by setting up special courts which fine and flog unfortunate traders who charge an extra 10 piastres on a fixed-price bottle of lemonade. But critics say such innovations hit unfairly at the souk merchants while fat-cat businessmen, who have made fortunes from hoarding goods, go scot-free.

In some ways the United States holds the key to President Nimeiry's success of failure. It now gives more aid to Sudan than to any country in black Africa.

The trouble — for President Nimeiry himself, who suffers from a constricting form of hyper-tension, and for any interested observer of Sudan — is that there is no obvious successor.

So President Nimeiry may hang on to the balancing job at which he excels — unless the forthcoming special congress of the ruling Sudanese Socialist Union party, called for February, brings some surprises, as has been widely tipped.

On the left, too, all is not well, although the Socialists' popularity is increasing, according to various polls. The Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the principal opposition, has decided not to form a coalition with the

Armada judge ordered her to be moved to Córdoba penitentiary for a new investigation. This time she demanded, and got, a promise of protection by Felipe González.

The declaration came at a time when the Socialist Party is seriously considering the parts it made for coalitions in the municipal governments of a number of Spanish cities, following mass dismissals and resignations of members of the Communist Party.

"A policy of leftist coalition is not possible in Spain," Señor González said.

Law Report January 26 1982

Privy Council

Lawful custody to be proved

Dillon v The Queen

Before Lord Fraser of Tulliberton, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Rookhope and Lord Bridge of Harwich. [Judgment delivered January 25]

When a police constable was charged with permitting a prisoner to escape from his custody the prosecution was not entitled to rely on a presumption that the prisoner's detention in custody was lawful but had to prove its lawfulness by affirmative evidence.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council allowed the appeal from a decision of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica by which that presumption was dismissed. The appeal against the conviction by Mr J. Lambert, a resident magistrate at Kingston, Jamaica, of having negligently permitted Paul Bryan and Robert Blackwood to escape from lawful custody.

Mr Nigel Murray, for the constable, Mr Ian X. Forte, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, Jamaica, and Mr F. Algernon Smith, Deputy DPP, Jamaica, for the Crown.

LORD FRASER, delivering their Lordships' judgment, said that the appellant was a police constable. On April 25, 1976 he had been on duty at the central police station lock-up in Kingston, Jamaica. His duties included guarding the cells and ensuring that the prisoners in custody did not escape. Among the prisoners were Paul Bryan and Robert Blackwood. While his supervisor off-duty was engaged in duties elsewhere, the constable had opened the cells occupied by the prisoners Bryan and Blackwood and allowed them to escape. He was charged before the resident magistrate with having negligently permitted Bryan and Blackwood to escape from lawful custody.

At the hearing, the evidence was that the prisoner Bryan had been arrested in February 1976 on a charge of shooting with intent, that he had escaped from custody and been recaptured on March 24, 1976. Thereafter he had been in custody until he escaped again on April 25.

There was no evidence to show that he had been brought before a magistrate between March 24 and April 25 or that on March 24 there had been any written authority for his detention by the Crown. It was submitted, if he had not been brought before a magistrate between March 24 and April 25 his continued detention would have been unlawful.

As regarded the prisoner Blackwood, he had been transferred to the general police station lock-up from the remand section of the General Penitentiary, Kingston. There was no evidence as to any power pursuant to which he had been transferred to the lock-up and held there.

The Crown had argued that on a charge of negligently permitting a prisoner to escape it was not necessary for the prosecution to prove affirmatively that the prisoner's detention had been lawful and that it was entitled to rely on a presumption to that effect in accordance with the maxim *omnis presumptione contra evidentiam esse acta non probatur in contrarium* (things are presumed to have been done in the absence of proof to the contrary).

Hawkins's Pleas of the Crown, 7th edition (1795), chapter 10, section 2, in discussing what should be justified an escape, stated that there had to have been an actual arrest and that the arrest, imprisonment and any continued imprisonment had to be justified. In accordance with that authority, *Practical Evidence & Practice in Criminal Cases*, 40th edition (1979) paragraph 3428 stated that to establish the offence the prosecution had to prove that the constable had had the prisoner in actual custody under a lawful warrant.

It was quite clear that the lawfulness of the detention was a necessary precondition for the offence of permitting an escape.

It was also well established that the courts would not presume the existence of facts which were capable of being denied. *R v Willis*, 1672/12 Com CC 164; and *Scott & Baker* ([1969] 1 QB 659).

Queen's Bench Division

Wife in refuge is homeless

Regina v Ealing London Borough, Ex parte Sidhu

Before Mr Justice Hodgson

Judgment delivered January 21

The fact that a woman is accommodated at a refuge for battered wives could not justify a local authority's refusal to treat her as a homeless person under section 1 of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977 in addition to her homelessness with her dependent children, the local authority was not entitled to require her to obtain a final custody order in respect of the children before treating her as a person in priority need of accommodation under the Act.

Mr Justice Hodgson so held on the Queen's Bench Division on January 21 when hearing an application by Paramjit Kaur Sidhu for declarations that she was a homeless person in priority need of accommodation within the meaning of section 2(1)(a) of the Act; that she had become neither homeless nor threatened with homelessness intentionally within the meaning of section 1 of the Act; and that the London Borough of Ealing were in breach of their duties under the Act.

Mr Andrew Arden for Mrs Sidhu; Mr Patrick Clarkson for the London Borough of Ealing.

MRI JUSTICE HODGSON said that Mrs Sidhu's marriage first ran into difficulties in 1976. In 1979 their council rent ran into arrears. In January 1981 she was thrown out of the house after being assaulted by her husband. After further intervention a reconciliation was effected. In March 1981 she, her husband and two young children were evicted from their council accommodation by order of the court.

They applied to the local authority for accommodation under the Act and the local authority took less than 24 hours to decide that they were both intentionally homeless. They were provided with temporary accommodation and at the end of April 1981 got accommodation in one room of a private house.

Mrs Sidhu was again subjected to violence in July 1981. In July 1981 she left her husband and was given accommodation in a refuge for battered wives.

That refuge was not in the London Borough of Ealing. Like all other refuges it was under extreme pressure, but the applicant and her children were fortunate in having a room of their own.

In August 1981 Mrs Sidhu had an interview with an officer of the homeless families unit of Ealing borough and applied for accommodation. On September 12, 1981, she was granted interim custody of her two children by the county court. A few days later she heard that her husband had gone to India. A copy of the court order was sent to the local authority.

On September 29, 1981, as a result of a telephone conversation, Mrs Sidhu's solicitors wrote to the local authority stating that they understood that the authority was not prepared to rehouse her because the issue of a full custody order had not been granted, thus asking if that was correct.

The local authority replied that the applicant was not to be considered for a permanent residence unless a full custody order had been granted, pointing out that she had been reconciled with her husband after a separation earlier in the year, that the family had been evicted for non-payment of rent and that she was intentionally homeless in March 1981, and that she would be considered as a separate unit once legal proceedings had been completed.

From that letter it was clear that the local authority were not prepared even to contemplate their statutory duty under the Act until what they were pleased to call a "full custody order" was granted.

The solicitor drew the court's attention to the judgment in *R v North Devon District Council, Ex parte Lewis* ([1981] 1 WLR 328) and also to that which they plainly knew, namely that under section 2 (1) (b) of the Act

the applicant and her children as a separate unit were unintentionally homeless, having been forced to leave when threatened with violence.

Referring again to the solicitors, the court asked the local authority to provide a statement under section 8 of the Act.

The local authority replied that

the applicant would be assessed in her own right and would not be deemed intentionally homeless.

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The local authority replied that

the applicant would be assessed in her own right and would not be deemed intentionally homeless.

The local authority had taken no part in securing Mrs Sidhu's accommodation, and was joined by the other spouse, who rendered them homeless. If that happened it was unjust as they were continuing to live in the same home.

In an attempt to avoid that situation the local authority had confused the making of inquiries into a factual situation with being satisfied that nothing would happen to change the factual situation.

There was nothing in the Act which would satisfy the delaying of inquiries to ensure that no change would take place in the future.

There was not the faintest suggestion of that in the applicant's case, but because of *varies locis* the local authority had that the situation might change if they had passed the expedient of asking for a final custody order.

Not only was there not the faintest suggestion in the Act that they could take that into account but it seemed a wholly inappropriate test.

Customs frequently had nothing to do with dependence and residence. One party could have custody and the other have care and control. The suggestion that an applicant who had not got a family home or could not be taken out of the Act was totally wrong in law.

The danger that the Act could be used to circumvent the queue waiting for accommodation could not be avoided in anyway, nor could any reasonable local authority think that it could.

Solicitors: Darlington & Parkin, Ealing; Mr N. L. Green, Ealing.

Signatures not surplusage

Regina v Torri

On the question whether Mrs Sidhu had an intention need of accommodation it was clear that she was in priority need if she had dependent children living with her. It was difficult to understand how the local authority could have been of the opinion that it was set up to help persons that it was set up to help and for whom it was extremely important.

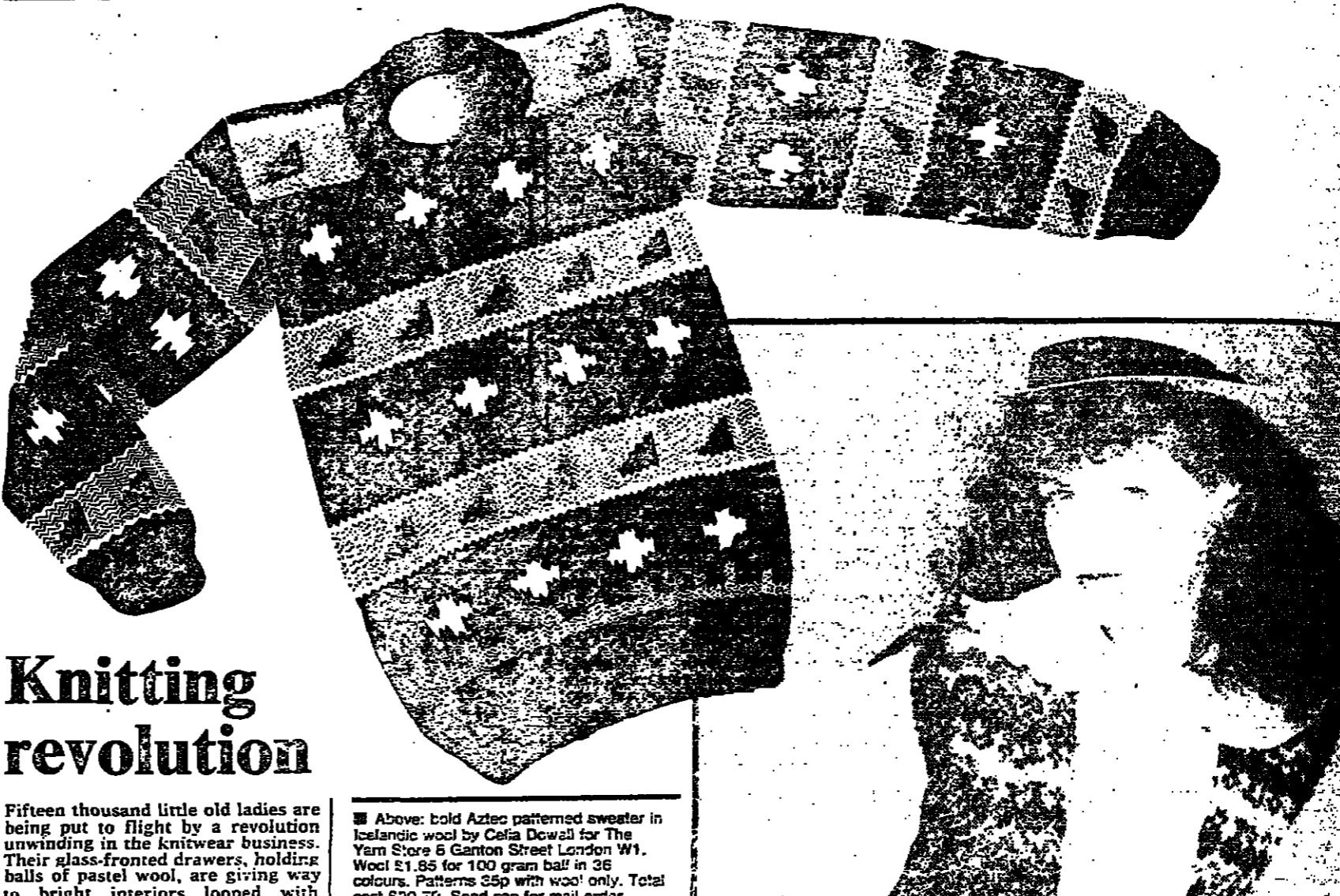
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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 26 1982

Hand-knit fashion by Suzy Menkes



Knitting revolution

In the instant case it had been essential for the prosecution to prove that the detention was lawful and its failure to do so was fatal to the constable's conviction.

The Lordship emphasized that the particular offence was one which related to the liberty of the subject and thus there was no room for presumptions in favour of the Crown. If there were to be a presumption that any person in fact in custody was to be lawfully in the states would be done in favour of a *fact accompli* in a way which might constitute a serious threat to liberty.

It had to be remembered that in every case where a police officer committed an offence of detaining a prisoner to escape, the prisoner also committed an offence by escaping. It would be contrary to fundamental principles of law that the burden should be on a priori to show that the offence was lawfully done.

To prove such a negative was notoriously difficult. On the other hand the prosecution was unlikely to have difficulty in proving the lawfulness of a detention, whether for arrest or of a magistrate's order for detention, or of a suitably certified copy, was normally all that was required and should be in the possession of the person in charge of the prison or local up.

The provision in section 18 of the Prisons Act (Jamaica) that a prisoner was to be delivered up to the superintendent of a prison "together with the warrant or commitment" was a recognition that without such authority the prison could not be entitled to receive or detain a prisoner in custody.

The only circumstance where

more than comparatively formal evidence of lawfulness would be required was where there was no authority for the particular detention as, for example, where he had been lawfully arrested but had escaped before there had been time to bring him before a magistrate. But those were not the facts of the present case.

Solicitors: Philip Conway, Thomas & Co; Charles Russell & Co.

Queen's Bench Division

Against all predictions, it is the younger generation who have taken up the needles. Many people still knit to pass the time and to save money (although that is a finely balanced calculation in a busy life). But new knitters are inspired by the chance of creating something original and by fashion's emphasis on hand-knits.

Colour and texture have been the major development in the yarn business over the last decade. Where once we were talking about a limited range of standard shades (based on blue, red and neutrals) the good yarn manufacturers now have colour ranges that could match a decorator's paint chart. The standard two-ply double knitting wools have been supplemented by clouds of soft mohair, balls of hard glitter lurex, tweeds, marled and boucle yarns. Even thermal yarns, to give extra warmth without bulk and weight, have been produced by companies like Lister Lee.

The knitting trade descends on Harrogate this week for the Needlecraft Exhibition. They are beginning to realize that there is a world of difference between servicing those people who want to knit to a price, and inspiring lapsed or doubting knitters.

Rebecca and David Elliott of Laines Couture (20 Bedford Street, WC2) feel that the British knitting companies have not taken advantage of the new moods in knitting. Their wares are so tactile that I wanted to finger the glittering puffs of candy floss pink or multi-shaded skeins in earthy colours. Almost all their yarns are French, especially from Plassard and Tiber.

There is a general feeling in Laines Couture that this is an artist's emporium. Those simple souls who come in for a 20p pattern find that the inspiration is supposed to come not from a picture plate, but from the wool itself. If your creative skills do not run to a Joseph coat thrown off in your spare time, they stock those mouth-watering French pattern books and those done specially for magazines like *Cent Idées* and *Elle*.

Patricia Roberts (1b Kensington Church Walk, W8 and 60 Kinnerton Street, SW1) started with the patterns. The seventh of her bi-annual knitting books comes out this week and illustrates nicely the transformation of the hand-knit look. Here are crunchy cotton-textured sweaters in intricate stitch-craft. There is a superb fairisle sweater knitted in a flower garden of silks. An extraordinary explosion of 1950s pattern and bobbly texture

rubs shoulders with a clutch of juggling clowns.

Their own knitting yarns now play an important part in the Patricia Roberts' shops (a new one opens in Covent Garden in April). At Harrogate this week they are introducing four more yarns (which wholesale throughout the country), including pure silk and 100 per cent cashmere.

Celia Dowell of the Yarn Store (8 Ganton Street, W1) started as a knitting designer, graduated to menswear and to lecturing at the Royal College of Art, and opened her own shop last spring. With her partner Marie Bower, she produces

simple but stylish patterns to make

up in their yarns, which include the entire colour spectrum of the heavy Icelandic yarn and their own Super Chunky, at £1.95 a hank, which comes in stunning colours like fuchsia and egg yolk yellow. Celia claims that a first-time knitter can pick up the giant wooden chopsticks and turn out a sweater in just three evenings for around £23.

All the shops mentioned above do a brisk mail order business and seemed to me to offer a splendid service advising and helping their customers.

This service is also offered in some of the department stores and at a specialist shop like Ries Wools of Holborn. Angela and Barry Ries

spotted the expanding market in crafts, from tapestry to needlepoint, and fill the two floors of their shop with an impressive selection of yarns, frames, wools, ribbons and patterns.

It was at Ries Wools (243 High Holborn WC1) that I saw a British invention which proves that there is life still in our native knitting industry. The Bond Knitting Machine is a lightweight plastic-toothed machine selling at the very reasonable price of £69, which will knit all those complex picture sweaters and fairisles that most of us don't even have the courage to attempt.

I don't think that confirmed hand-knitters who enjoy working with their hands will be seduced by any machine. But the Bond is light enough (4lb) to set up and small (38 inches long) to store. It is also simple to use for the basic knitting, although one of my testers found the ribbing trying to elderly eyes (you have to use a transfer tool or darning needle).

The machine has four different key plates, but it is especially designed for the thicker wools, which proves that inventor Roger Curry understands the mood and feel of current fashion as well as the age-old technique of knitting.

Drawings by Duncan Mill.

Below: crunchy lace and bobble

sweater by Patricia Roberts from her new pattern book £1.65 from leading

newspaper and knitting departments. In Woollybear Fine Cotton (£5.55, 17 shades)

total cost £11.70. Or in Woollybear Pure Silk (£1.55, 10 shades) total cost £29.25.

From Patricia Roberts 15 Kensington

Church Walk W8 and 60 Kinnerton Street SW1, and mail order.

Drawings by Duncan Mill.

Below: bold Aztec patterned sweater in

lambic wool by Celia Dowell for The Yarn Store 8 Ganton Street London W1.

Wool £1.85 for 100 gram ball in 36

colours. Patterns 55p with wool only. Total cost £20.70. Send see for mail order details.

Right: hand-knitted waistcoat in bright

or cream £110, prairie blouse and ricrac

skirt. All by Ralph Lauren from 143

New Bond Street W1. Straw Panama by

Kangol from Selfridges Oxford Street W1.

Navel look turquoise bracelet £35, earrings £17 by Imagina, from II, St Christopher's Place W1.

Hair Trevor Bowden at Colombe.

Make up Mary Vango for Ultima 11.

Photograph by John Swannell.

Below right: Multi-textured honeycomb

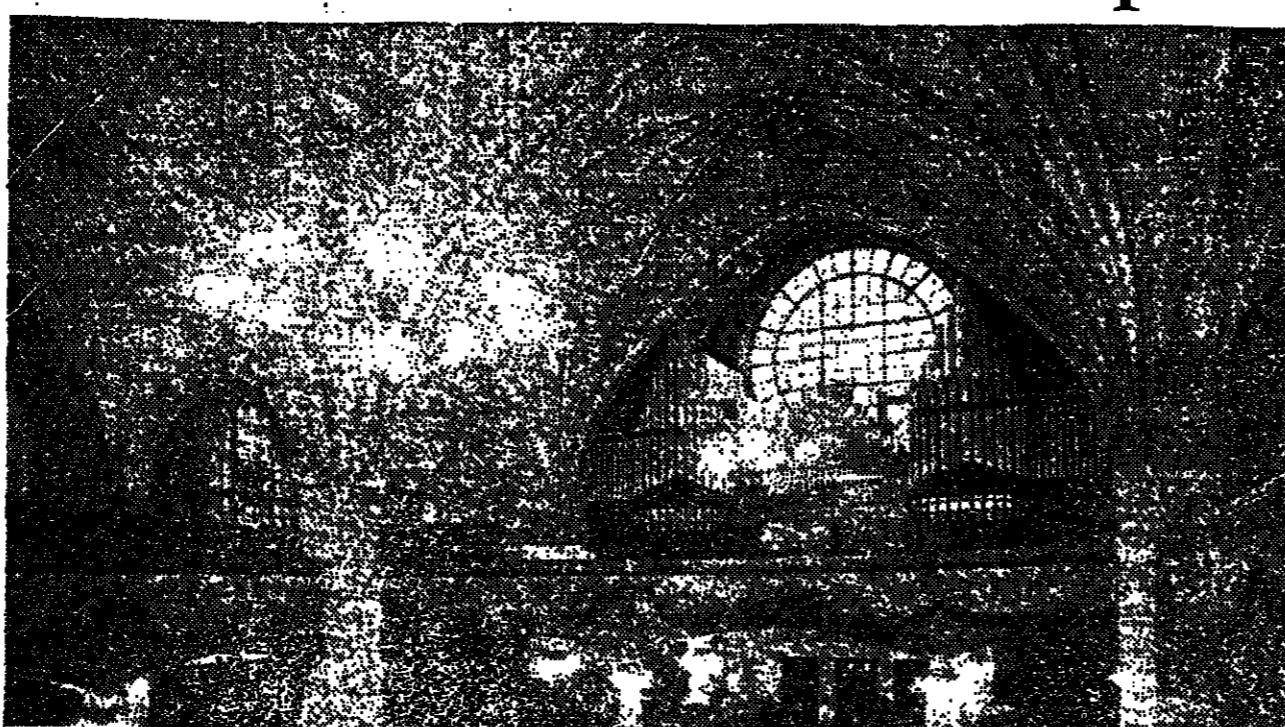
patterned sweater in Tiber's cotton velour

(£2.00),

THE ARTS

Galleries

The architecture of showmanship

Magnificent Matcham**Lyric, Hammersmith****Lars Sonck****Heinz Gallery****Lubetkin and Tecton****Museum of Modern Art, Oxford****Sabaudia, Citta Nuova Fascista****Architectural Association**

The interior of Tampere Cathedral, Sonck's first big success; and (right) the town hall and square of Sabaudia "like walking through a classic Chirico".



Exhibitions used to be primarily a way of putting a number of things together to be seen by the public: display, at any rate in the early exhibitions, was very much a subsidiary consideration. One would notice, of course, whether the pieces were well or ill lit, whether they were related in some useful way to one another or just left to fend for themselves. But the exhibition as an art form in its own right was developed (unconsciously to begin with) in the service of commerce and political propaganda. It was no doubt inevitable, from the moment when Pop Artists began making art out of other people's art, and assemblages became favoured art forms, that the exhibition itself should be seen in a similar light: an installation in which the real artist was the deviser, using the art-works of others to make a new art-work of his own.

Most of the new breed of historical shows which has been sweeping across Europe in the last couple of years seem to belong to this class: they are certainly not primarily art shows, but use works of art along with all sorts of other things to create a total picture or argue a particular point. If the art critic has anything legitimate to do at them (and if not he, then who?), it is as much as anything to judge the exhibition itself as a work of art.

With exhibitions on architecture the situation is less clear-cut. Though architectural exhibitions have been a feature of the art scene for many years, they have seldom been much more than shows of photographs, with the odd original drawing or artist's rendering of a project thrown in whenever possible. With the Hayward Gallery's *Luytens* show (which, by the way, you have until Sunday to catch if you have not seen it already) architectural

would have detected — to the old auditorium. At the entrance there is one further piece of the real thing, however: a rather lurid plaster figure of an Indian (why Indian? well, why not?) such as decorates the front of the main boxes in another recently restored Matcham masterpiece, the Grand Opera House, Belfast. It is more solid than anything the organizers of the Lars Sonck exhibition at the Heinz Gallery of the R.I.B.A. (21 Portman Square, until February 27) have been able to show over from Finland. But they do know some absolutely beautiful drawings, usually (as is so often the way) of unexecuted projects and unsuccessful entries for architectural competitions.

Though Sonck had his share of such, that did not prevent him, as anyone who has ever visited Helsinki will attest, from leaving an indelible impression on that city and on Finnish architecture in general. Outside Finland his name is scarcely known: Saarinen and Adler seem to be as many Finnish architects as the world can absorb. Partly this is due to the very curious style in which his earlier buildings were designed. Finland had its own local brand of Art Nouveau/Jugendstil/Secesssion art around the turn of the century, known as the National Romantic Movement. Sonck's first notable buildings, which date from the 1900s, belong right in the middle of that. The banking hall of the Helsinki Privatbank, for instance, with its giant, dumpy columns and monumental carved capitals, looks more like the

setting for a Sibelius tone-poem than somewhere one might do something so mundane as to cash a cheque.

It was a good style for cathedrals — Sonck's first big success was Tampere Cathedral (1900) — modifying gothic forms as radically and peculiarly as Gaudi was doing in Barcelona. Sonck applied it with equal success to the telephone and the offices of the Helsinki Telephone Company. Though clearly belonging to the international Art Nouveau, it scorns the famous sinuous line (at most, one or two might be incised on a monumental slab) and goes off darkly on its own. In any case, by the end of the decade Sonck had moved beyond it; in 1911 he was already working in his own neo-classical style which looks forward to Art Deco. For anyone who does not already know his work the show (accompanied by a very useful monograph in Finnish and English, £6) should be an eye-opener — though opens our eyes in a very modest, self-effacing sort of way.

Sonck's work was nationalist, when that was not a dirty word, but not political or polemic. By the Thirties it was difficult to avoid being either — at least by implication. Not that Lubetkin or the builders of Sabaudia had the least desire to avoid it; rather, they welcomed it with open arms. The titles of the shows devoted to them are indication enough: Lubetkin and Tecton: Architecture and Social Commitment; Architecture and Social Commitment at the Oxford Museum of Modern

Art until February 28; Sabaudia, Citta Nuova Fascista at the Architectural Association, 34 Bedford Square, until February 13.

If the name of Lubetkin does not ring any bell, I am sure the image of the Penguin Pond at London Zoo does. Built in 1934, this whimsical yet at the same time highly practical structure, with its two curved ramps elegantly intersecting in the middle, was for some time the perfect plain man's introduction to modern architecture. But Lubetkin and the office he worked with in Britain, Tecton, had more to them than that.

Russian by birth and early training, Lubetkin was sent to Berlin in 1922 to help spread the word of progressive Soviet art, worked subsequently in Vienna, Warsaw and Paris, where he was in charge of realizing the designs on the spot for the Russian sections of the 1925 Exposition des Arts Décoratifs, and then from 1931 lived and worked in Britain. He was and remains of Socialist persuasion, convinced that architecture must serve a social purpose; his withdrawal from the architectural scene in 1950 was so complete one must presume it was dictated by disillusion. The show is, as befits the theme, a little dry and didactic, but the materials available are very rich, and from them it conjures up a powerful image of a man, and what he tried, very determined, to do about it.

Sabaudia is all image-making. In the early Thirties the Italian government decided to cap its achievement in draining the Pontine Marshes by building on the land five new towns, and held a competition for the biggest, Sabaudia, which was to be conceived all of a piece, to the glory of the regime as much as for the use of its inhabitants. A group of young Roman architects, Piccinato, Montuori, Cancellotti and Scalpellini, won the award, the foundation stone was laid on August 5, 1933, and by April 1934 the town centre was ready for royal inauguration. To judge by the splendid array of photographs, contemporary and recent, plans and architect's drawings assembled at the A.A., the experience of Sabaudia must be very peculiar. Like walking through a classic Chirico, perhaps, or at any rate a setting which might have been specially devised for someone to feel alienated in during an Antonioni film.

What now, are the Fascist Party Headquarters, the Fascist Military Barracks and the Club for Fascist Youth used for? Presumably much the same, only with a different political complexion or no political complexion at all. Nevertheless, the period flavour is overwhelming: surely here, if anywhere, candles are secretly lit for the Duke in the dead of night. Like an aesthetic time capsule, long after the regime is dead its own necropolitic monument lingers on.

John Russell Taylor

Opera

The end of a San Franciscan era

The matinée of *Carmen* which he conducted marked the finale of Kurt Herbert Adler's reign as the benevolent dictator of the San Francisco Opera. During his 29 years he has nurtured it from an unadventurous provincial rep to what is arguably one of the five or six best opera companies in the world. In its annual autumn season San Franciscans have come to expect productions drawn from an extensive repertoire that are imaginative, ingenious, well-integrated and decently rehearsed. They are interpreted by some of the best artists in the world, and supported by a large and able local company.

More venturesome than any other American opera impresario, Mr Adler has mounted 102 new productions since 1952, including 13 operas new to the United States. He has introduced a great number of distinguished singers to the country, and it is here that the designer-director Jean-Pierre Ponnelle has been persuaded to make his American base. Through his network of subsidiary troupes, Mr Adler has fostered many important careers. He has balanced budgets, placated trade unions and city fathers and made San Francisco into nearly as serious an "opera town" as his native Vienna. The large house is regularly sold out, and audiences have been educated to an unusual degree of musical sophistication.

Much of this has been achieved by his blend of adroitly measured belligerence and charm. He has chewed up subordinates, negotiated like a Metternich, taken insane risks in casting and attended personally to million-trivial details. He clearly enjoyed all his power and his honours: he wore his medals to galas, and screamed insults, as he kissed hands, with genuine Habsburg style. He will not be soon forgotten.

It is no secret that Mr Adler cajoled a number of operatic luminaries into returning to San Francisco in his final season in return for past favours: in effect, to render him homage. His successor, Terry McEwen (formerly classical music director of London Records), is unlikely soon to be able to duplicate Adler's autumn 1981 line-up: Joan Sutherland, Montserrat Caballe, Teresa Berganza, Fiorenza Cossotto, Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and Wolfgang Brendel; in addition, Birgit Nilsson, Marilyn Hor-

ne, Leontyne Price, Margaret Price, René Grise, Leonie Kysanek, Anja Silja, Geraint Evans, Jess Thomas, Stuart Burrows and James King were all, in effect, returning to the scene of their first American triumphs. Jess Thomas, in San Francisco on holiday, was pressed by an urgent telephone call from Mr Adler into singing a replacement Siegmund at two hours' notice.

I did not hear that particular *Die Walküre*. But both productions I saw were proudly impressive, primarily because the opera orchestra, under an inspired Omar Sutin, excelled itself in a performance of the score as subtle as it was strong. Every instrumental solo or section entry seemed virtuosic, challenging as well as supporting the singers.

Birgit Nilsson, at 63, no longer creates an unfailingly beautiful sound. Her attack on a note can be shrill, her vibrato uneven. But no one singing possesses such overwhelming power. The alterna-

tive Brunnhilde, Eszter Kovacs from Budapest, seemed a more plausible Valkyrie. She can emit single sustained notes that combine

great purity and great volume. But notes in between were lost, and I feared for the future of a voice so audibly strained.

Highest honours in this *Walküre* went to Leonie Rysanek's Sieglinde. She sang with even and effortless power, and a radiant effulgence of tone, and she looked noble. Her scheduled partner was James King, a noble, persuasive and full-voiced Siegmund.

The new *Carmen* was notable mainly for Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's stunning sets and (as usual) disputable innovations. It was performed for the first time in San Francisco with spoken French dialogue, which some singers had mastered and others had not. The Ponnelle sets were based on the conceit of one immense, sunwashed wall, which rolled on tracks past the wings to become the outside of the barracks, the cigarette factory and (with a deeply cut series of arches receding to the back of the house) the bullfight arena. A piece of this same wall, scribbled over with graffiti, even emerged among the rocks in Act III.

Ponnelle made his soldiers

drunken than usual. His foul cigarières collapsed at their break like depraved man-haters. The colourful (wonderfully directed) crowds were dominated by a ragtag band of caving children. Sides of beef and loads of manure were hauled, Zeffirelli-fashion, across the stage. Zuniga (who is killed by Don José) struts about in dark glasses. A flamboyant Dancario terrorizes the gypsies into line, directs their lowering of a giant cannon over the cliff, and joins in their mockery of poor Micaela — who watches Carmen's murder at the end from a window in the arena.

It does not all make sense, but it is all very Ponnelle. With the second set of leads (Plácido Domingo and Hanna Schwarz), all this wilfully gritty naturalism — which is very far indeed from the romantic fancies of Bizet and his librettists — was enhanced by musical and dramatic conviction. On the whole, I thought it not the most congenial vehicle for the retiring director to conduct. Mr Adler will, we are assured, be back in the pit, if not in the upstairs office, in seasons to come.

David Littlejohn



more scruffy, cynical and

LSO/Previn

Festival Hall

A friend of Brahms, the poet S. H. Mosenthal, said the composer was only happy when singing "My Joy is in the Grave". That was a painstakingly humorous exaggeration, but an airy performance of Mozart's A major Symphony, K 201, by André Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra on Sunday still made a somewhat inappropriate prelude to Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

All of which is ungrateful no doubt, as he intended the work as a consolation to the living, and Mr Previn's tempos were such as to avoid turgidity.

This was particularly noticeable in the 3/4 march movements, "Denn alles Fleisch es ist wie Gras", and also in the opening "Selig sind die da Leid tragen". Here the choral lines were firmly secure in their rises and falls, and indeed the dynamics of the London Symphony Chorus were good throughout, there being no exaggeration of hushed reverence in the quiet passages but plenty of power in the loud, most obviously the loud piece.

There was excellent dovetailing at many points in this performance, between the various orchestral bass-lines, or the placing of the important timpani contributions to "Denn alles Fleisch". Similarly in "Herr lehr doch mich" the violin counterpoint to the choral tenors at "Ich hoffe auf dich" was beautifully distinct.

It is in the finale that the soloist has now found her way to a brighter and fuller sense of musical character, with an absolute security of intonation that helps her take all commands of technique in her stride. The performance also conveyed a rapport with the orchestra which the conductor fully sustained in the alert ensemble that was also apparent at the start in Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*.

The symphony was changed to Tchaikovsky's fifth, wherein the conductor well knew the secret of letting the letter of the music generate the emotional temperature without pulling it about. Warmth and affectionate discipline, concern for detail clarified both colour and content, of which Jeffrey Bryant's solo horn and Prudence Whittaker's clarinet were but the most distinctive.

In a courageous all-American programme the pianist Nanette Kaplan Solomon, now an assistant professor in Pennsylvania, played with a commanding masculinity strength and determination admirable when the music itself could take it as in the dances of MacDowell's *Songs of a Slave* and the more insistent climaxes of Copland's Variations, but which in other contexts seemed too inflationary and clang-toned — as for instance in *Guilliam's Rosiniana No 1*, which was also outstanding for subtle shading and rhythmic and textural control.

In demonstrative outbursts with Sweeneley, Picchi and Rossi such high-powered, temperamental pursuit of virtuosity and colour at times almost overstrained the resources of the instrument itself (as in 1978 Kroesbergen after Ruckers). Even in more reflective pieces such as Purcell's Ground and a Chaconne in C by Couperin his immediacy and generosity of feeling found expression in much richer sonority than commonly heard from a harpsichord. Bach's Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue, its contrapuntal argument expounded with exceptionally serious clarity and control, was replaced, however, by Witol Rowicki, who was a scholarly thinker behind the firebrand.

All that remained of the original programme then was

Concerts

Kyung-Wha Chung and the G minor Violin Concerto of Max Bruch, which she has made more romantic but less sentimental in the ten years or so since I first heard her play it. The violin's crucial entry in the slow movement, stealing in on the breath of the famous tune, had the requisite raptness and wonder from which the beauty later stemmed.

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The week's only British debutants were the co-winner of the I.S.M.'s National Westminster Bank recital. The pianist Caroline Palmer made an outstandingly vivid impression in Ginastera's Sonata (admittedly not the profoundest test) with her clear-cut brilliance, rhythmic clarity and keen ear for atmospheric sonority. Though describing herself as a contralto, Susan Mason lacked body in the depths while soaring freely and flexibly in mezzo-soprano territory. An eager story-teller in Purcell, Schubert and Strauss, she was always more persuasive than in heightened drama or rapture than in intimate brooding despite promising control of line.

Joan Chissell

Television

Friendly force

After three episodes of BBC1's *Police* I had come to the conclusion that if, by some monstrous miscarriage of justice, I were to come in conflict with the law, I would prefer it were not in the Thames Valley area, where Messrs Roger Graef and Charles Stewart have been poking around for this series.

What worried me about the last programme — the rape incident — was that, if that was how Thames Valley police dealt with an allegation of rape, what guarantee was there that they would be any less inept with anything else?

Last night we tracked back to the Reading Pop Festival of 1980, a testing time surely for any force. Trains, cars, buses and bikes brought in 30,000 music-lovers, a fair number favouring the kind of studded leather ornamentation that, in my youth, was thought proper only for brewery horses. Dull it could not be. And it was not.

We saw the police being briefed. So far as drugs were concerned, they were not looking for a cricket score; they were looking for dealers and suppliers. Officers were exhorted to remember that their behaviour would create lasting impressions, to steer clear of the hospital tent so that users suffering from bad effects would not be deterred from seeking treatment.

We saw the drug squad at work, fairly friendly frisking, and then, alarmingly, a gathering mob as someone was arrested and put in a police car. No one would want the job at a time like that, to try reason against numbers on a hot day when the drink and maybe many other stimulants have been flowing. But there was no punch-up and trouble was averted, the mob turning to song.

Earlier one of the leathery, sweat-banded types was heard telling some policemen: "I nearly joined your mob once but I had different ideas on retribution from what you lot have. I'm strictly an eye-for-an-eye, a tooth-for-a-tooth." He was right about not joining, that is if he really had the option: on this day in Reading it was New Testament stuff only.

There were arrests and hope from the drug squad — for this in Operation Julie country — that they were on to a big catch, but what was thought to be LSD turned out to be semolina and meant for fraud.

On the whole it was, given the numbers and the occasion, fairly peaceable and reassuring. It was all done with 200 policemen, about 25 in the drug squad and wearing clothes that might well have got them frisked outside their own division. An A-plus for Thames Valley on this one. Now it is only the thought of that music that would keep me away. This was the first of Graef and Stewart's programmes that will not raise a press pursuit of some kind, but they are a long way from finished and *Police* is now a "must" programme.

BBC2's *West Country Tales*, which started last night with the first of seven strange tales submitted by viewers in BBC South-West, may not achieve that rating but, on this showing, it should be entertaining enough. Last night's tale, a true story submitted by a clergyman who chooses anonymity, concerned the weird experiences of an overworked priest dispatched to take a holiday in a peaceful village.

The devil, who, we know, never takes a holiday, is not terribly pleased with this priest's unremitting efforts to tweak his tail, goes along too, with alarming consequences for the tail-wearer. The battle ended happily but, presumably, not the war.

Karen Pearson made a good job of the priest and it was well produced and directed by John King.

Dennis Hackett

• Leo McKern, star of the television series *Rumpole of the Bailey*, returns to the West End in *The*

Critic

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Why the Tory wets should dry up

Dear Wet Colleague,
I thought I would write to try to cheer you up as you seem to have been very nervous and unhappy lately. On the surface, things do not look too rosy. The economy seems to be taking longer to turn around than anyone expected. Unemployment remains stubbornly high. The SDP has done remarkably well despite the absence of any very visible policies. Your seat looks increasingly vulnerable and it may be that you are hoping for the first time in your life that the Labour vote will hold up in your constituency, and so keep out the SDP at the next election.

You have suggested to me that we steal the clothes of the SDP and watch the voters return. I can quite see the temptation to make a dash for the apparent safety of what you call the centre. But the SDP have no clothes. They appeal to the electorate because they have not yet settled their policies. When they do, they will suffer an inevitable alienation as many people find they disagree with them.

In any case, drifting towards the position of the opposition parties is hardly likely to do us any good at the polls. If we adopt the policies of the opposition we are endorsing their claim to govern and inviting the voters to support our example and support them.

Archie Hamilton, MP, writes an open letter pointing out the short-sightedness of Conservative colleagues who are disenchanted with Mrs Thatcher's policies

There is another question I suggest you consider. Where is the centre? How right-wing is the Government? Has it adopted any very right-wing policies? It has not cut public expenditure, but increased it. It has not banned the closed shop. It has not denationalised education or health. I wish that it had done all of these things, as do many voters, but it is, in fact, very much a government of the centre.

This message is certainly not getting across well enough. And frankly, you are not helping by publishing pamphlets critical of our policies.

Your seat looks increasingly vulnerable and it may be that you are hoping for the first time in your life that the Labour vote will hold up in your constituency, and so keep out the SDP at the next election.

Now let us consider the pro-

posals you are urging on the Chancellor. Broadly, you want to see an expansionary budget to put about £5,000 million into the economy so that economic activity will pick up and unemployment will go down. Laudable aims. But pumping money into the economy will not help our manufacturers enjoy sustained wealth-creating growth.

Nor would an expansionary budget really touch the unemployed problem. It might produce a small reduction for a short while, but when the inevitable surge in inflation took place another million could well be thrown out of work.

One of the claims you advance for your economic prescriptions is that they would be more humane. But the sufferings of the unemployed today are largely the cruel result of wet policies adopted by successive governments during the last 20 years, both Labour and, I am afraid, Conservative.

If the Chancellor takes your advice, two things will happen. First, we will lose all credibility with the voters and they will be entitled to ask why they had to suffer exposure to the cold winds of economic reality if, all along,

our problems could have been solved by reflation. Second, the resulting inflation will destroy our credibility abroad, sterling will plunge, interest rates will have to go through the roof, all the very real improvements in our economic performance will have been thrown away.

Since I never hear you speak of the positive achievements of our Government, allow me, with the greatest respect, to remind you of them.

● Inflation is down from 22 per cent in 1980 to 12 per cent now. It will continue down, particularly if we have a sensible wage round this winter.

● Productivity is massively improved. There are many examples, not only in the private sector, but, more surprisingly, in the nationalised industries: Leyland, British Steel, British Airways. Who would have thought in 1979 that British Steel would improve its output per man hour by 25 per cent overall and at two plants, Port Talbot and Llanwern, by nearly 50 per cent in three years.

● The volume of exports is rising fast. When measured between February and September of last year, non-oil exports were up at six per cent on an annual basis.

● Industrial production was up 1 per cent in the last quarter of last year and housing starts are up substantially.

● We are getting our housekeeping right as well. At the last election the country owed £22,000m to overseas creditors. It owes £14,000m now.

Perhaps most important of all, there is an entirely new atmosphere at work. Both management and workers have started, at last, to recognise that they have the same objectives. All over the country people are buckling down and solving their problems together. Look at the record. Fewer days lost last year than any year since 1967. Fewer industrial disputes in the last two years than at any time since 1940.

Britain is on course for a gradual but sustained export-led economic recovery.

With these facts before you, dear colleague, why not make your maxim for 1982 to stop carping and start spreading the good news.

Archie Hamilton

The author is MP for Epsom & Ewell and Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Transport.



Roy Plomley (right) and two potential castaways: George Bernard Shaw said no, Paul McCartney gets marooned on Saturday.

Forty years on the island

On Saturday, to the familiar sound of seagulls, Roy Plomley's mellow voice will be heard on Radio 4 announcing his 1.629th castaway — Paul McCartney: and *Desert Island Discs* will be 40 years old.

It is the longest running programme under the same

compero in the history of radio, so old that one of its

first possible guests was

Bernard Shaw. Then, no one had heard of Roy Plomley.

The invitation came back,

scrawled along the bottom

of the card: "No. Too busy

with more important things,

GBS". Few people, since,

have resisted.

Like all inventors of a

perfect idea, almost magical

in its simplicity, Plomley

remembers with absolute

clarity the moment he dreamt it up. It was November 3 1941. He was back in London from France where, defying a 20-year family tradition in medicine, he had been working in commercial radio.

He was in his pyjamas on

his way to bed when the

notion came to him of

inviting famous people to tell

the world what music they

liked best. Unlike most night-time inspirations, he decided not to put it off until the next morning. He typed the proposal and posted it. Sixteen days later the BBC replied: who would be his guests?

He had the list ready: Anna

Neagle, J. B. Priestley, Arthur

Askey, Kay Cavendish.

Two months later the com

edian Vic Oliver — then

married to Winston Churchill's actress daughter Sarah

made history as the first

castaway. He chose, Plomley recalls, *The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers* and some Chopin. Since that day the show has been off the air for only one period, between 1947 and 1951. No other week has been missed.

Todays format is almost

precisely what it was in 1942:

a potted, slightly humorous

autobiography, told by the guest, interspersed with two-

minute extracts from eight

favourite records. For the

first ten years it was just

music; then castaways were

allowed to include one lux-

ury, providing it had no

practical use.

A few years later, came a

book, not the Bible or

Shakespeare because the

author is a woman and



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE UNION CENSORS

Tim pot dictators do it fear from that process of inquiry? Despite the mythologies peddled by the disruptives left, the national press is not in collusion. It is in competition. This includes *The Times* and *The Sun* which share both common ownership and editorial independence. From the process of diligent inquiry, therefore, the offended blackers would have had their grievance ventilated to the world. Of course if the allegations are true, and the union men know them to be true, or partly true, they are accomplices to fraud. In either case, the ease with which the censors have disregarded the legal machinery is disturbing. The undertakings given to the High Court on Sunday by two Aslef officials were kept by them, but they extended to no others. Any future injunction sought and obtained, would apply only to those named in them. The possibilities for anarchic obstruction are endless. There is nothing very new about this. Freedom in any society depends upon a common consent and recognition of its value as much as it does on legal restraints and inhibitions.

It is sad, therefore, that so few responsible people have felt themselves able or willing or interested enough to speak about this blatant imputation. Every act of illiberality and censorship which is winked at merely prepares the ground for the next. As Henry Thoreau said of the first railway train, what we then see is merely 'wickedness going faster'. There is one quarter, of course, from whom one can expect more than rhetoric. It is

British Rail which employs the censors and it is British Rail which is failing to fulfil its contract to carry newspapers. They should institute their own disciplinary procedures forthwith.

Of course, there is underlying the anarchy at Kings Cross and elsewhere a suspicion among union members that the press is not on their side and that it is occasionally or even frequently harsh or unfair. There are some remedies for error and falsehood. There is a law of defamation which punishes damaging or malicious statements. There is the Press Council, though it admittedly takes time to establish the facts in any particular case and issue its rebukes or acquittals. But most importantly there is the diversity of the British press. It is not a monolith. That diversity would have played benevolently on the issues raised by the two railway workers. And in that diversity the power of any single newspaper to advance its own views is always limited by two factors: its acceptance by sufficient numbers of readers to assure its survival and by the journalistic integrity of its staff.

None of these answers is conclusive. Certainly they will not satisfy the paranoiac or the mischievous. But the press does not claim to be perfect. It claims to be free. The press has no rights other than those of the ordinary citizen. It exercises its powers of inquiry and dissemination on his behalf and it is against the ordinary citizen that the blackers of Kings Cross are striking.

TIED IN TO SIBERIA

The French Government's decision to conclude a major gas deal with the Russians only a few weeks after President Reagan's announcement of trade sanctions against the Soviet Union is indequate to say the least. The French, who have been as outspoken as any Continental country in their condemnation of what is happening in Poland, must have known the propaganda advantage such an action would give to the Russians and the damage it will do to the already frayed unity of the western allies in response to Polish events. Even if the French had felt that the deal was inevitable and right, they could have played the Russians at a distance for the time being until the moment was more propitious.

The problem for the French, and for the Germans who had already concluded a similar deal late last year before the military take-over in Poland, is that they want the gas and see all too many overwhelming commercial reasons for going ahead with it. While the United States Administration can hector the Europeans over the need to break relations with the Russians, the simple fact is that Russian gas has already taken on a major role in Europe's energy pattern and is now required to expand even more if that balance is to be maintained into the future.

The reason is the expected decline of the huge Groningen gas field in Holland. It has been on the back of growing exports from this field that North-west Europe has built up its gas industry, increasing the share of gas in the primary energy market from less than 5 per cent in 1970 to more than 15 per cent today. Without new supplies to replace Groningen, the major European countries could face severe problems in meeting demand during the latter part of the decade.

The alternatives to Russian suppliers are far from attractive. Development of North Sea reserves, which could prove very considerable, has been held up by the conservationist approach of the Norwegians and the recent decision of the United Kingdom government not to back a major gas gathering pipeline system. To the south, both the Libyans and Algerians can, and do supply gas but have recently proved both greedy and unreliable. Russian gas in this context gives greater flexibility to the system, while the Russian need for foreign earnings has induced them to offer highly competitive prices. If the French have pursued Russian gas so forcefully, they can at least claim to have done more than any other European country to diversify their energy resources through an ambitious nuclear programme and through gas purchases from Algeria. And if others criticise the French, it has to be said that the British in particular have done nothing to develop either a European energy policy or even a development of North Sea gas which might prove a counterpoint to Russian supplies.

It is on this point that Western European governments should think again about the current negotiations with the Russians. Over the longer-term, there

may well be good reason for negotiating additional contracts from the Russians. Although the latest sales will raise the proportion of Russian gas deliveries to demand in France, Italy and Germany to 30 per cent of gas use in the late 1980s, Russian gas will still form no more than 5 per cent of total energy use. The difficulty comes in flexibility. If there are no readily available alternatives, then the Russians will be able to use a sizable share of German and French gas supply to apply pressure either through price or in other more political ways. If the Europeans were prepared to develop a pipeline network capable of switching sources and reserve capacity in the North Sea, then the boot would be on the other foot. It would be the Russians that would find it difficult to switch exports and the European customers who could ensure non-dependence.

As it is, there are many problems which are likely to delay if not completely undermine Russian plans to pipe gas from Siberia into western Europe. Their limited ability to pay for the pipe and equipment, their reluctance to buy that equipment from the Europeans and the continuing United States dominance of the technology are all casting a serious question mark over the project, whatever the sales contracts. But as it is, the Europeans need that gas. As long as there is no allied effort to develop policies to get round that, no one should blame individual countries such as France from doing what is necessary to give themselves a balanced fuel economy.

Social sciences

From Professor Robin Morris

Sir, It seems unlikely that the attitude displayed in the letters you have published on the subject of social sciences research so far represents the weight of professional opinion, especially of opinion among the younger generation of academics and research workers who, being very busy, are less prone, Sir, to write to you.

Professor Ferns's grievances (January 21) are particularly difficult to comprehend. He complains that the Social Science Research Council method of judging proposals has impaired the autonomy of universities in initiating research. To this there are two rejoinders.

Firstly, before the advent of the SSRC there was not much money in this country for any social science research, and much of what there was came from American foundations who were showing increasing reluctance to subsidise national responsibilities in developed countries.

Secondly, what on earth is wrong with the principle that research proposals are best evaluated by committees of professionally competent persons advised by anonymous referees? This is the method found most effective in other countries, and especially by the United States National Science Foundation which provides funds for both natural and social science. The practices of the NSF are part of a general American approach to the support of research that is

widely believed to have been the main cause of the extraordinary United States performance in recent decades in the Nobel Prize for natural science and economics.

A recent article on your feature page (January 15) showed that a substantial part of the SSRC's money goes to economists. Ten years ago worldwide opinion saw British economics as in a state of doldrums, if not decline. Today the same forum is increasingly recognising a new generation of original, rigorous, statistically sophisticated and politically detached young economists who are currently teaching and researching in British universities.

No reasonably objective observer could escape the conclusion that the SSRC has been a significant factor in the recovery. The reasons are to be found not only in the actual provision of funds but also in the process by which they are awarded, namely a process which is both competitive and exacting.

Although academics, like all animals, will sometimes scratch each other's backs, they are also exceptionally quick to criticise bogus or sloppy proposals. In setting high standards for the award of funds, the SSRC has also raised standards of research. Perhaps this is what has riled Professor Ferns.

Yours etc.,
ROBIN MARRIS,
Birkbeck College,
University of London,
Department of Economics,
7-15 Gresse Street, W1.
January 22.

Many of the church steeches and lych gates on which cedar shingles were being applied were originally designed to be covered with oak shingles. As a result, the renovation work did not always faithfully restore the original appearance.

Searching in Belgium and France, I discovered a French craftsman who had been manufacturing shakes from sweet chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*) for over 30 years. Sweet chestnut is in many ways more appropriate for the production of shakes.

The design of these shakes was identical to that of the traditional oak shakes used in England for many centuries. Since April 1981, the spires of three small churches have been re-covered with chestnut shakes with great success.

A craftsman has now set up in full-scale production using traditional production methods, and further projects will be completed this year.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BROWN,
Papal Visit Central Coordinator
for England and Wales,
St Vincent's Convent,
Carlisle Place, SW1.
January 22.

Mr Gerard Noel, whose letter we published yesterday, is editor in chief of *The Catholic Herald*, not the editor, who is Mr Daniel Compton. The views Mr Noel expressed do not necessarily represent those of the paper.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH M. WALLEY,
46 Rotherwick Road, NW11.
January 23.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economic tasks in the Highlands

From Sir Kenneth Alexander

Sir, Although, as Lord Kirkhill says (January 16), the words quoted by the Chairman of the Highland Board (January 13) were from the hydro board's annual report and not from the Act, the Act does put "collaboration in the carrying out of any measures for the economic development and social improvement of the North of Scotland district" alongside "meeting the demands of ordinary consumers" as the hydro board's prime duties. In the light of the seriousness of the issues under consideration Lord Kirkhill should have made this clear.

As the pioneering work of providing electricity for small and dispersed communities throughout the Highlands and islands is largely achieved, I would argue that economic development should now be given priority. This argument is reinforced when it is recognised that the major social problems of the Highlands and islands stem particularly from the absence of secure employment for substantial proportions of the population of working age in particular communities. The Invergordon/Ainleas area is now the most threatened and depressed of such areas.

The Highlands and islands

would be helped more by taking

the benefit of their hydro power

in the form of much-needed

employment and industrial

growth than as a marginally

lower domestic rate for their

church schools make a necessary and desirable contribution to education, and in feeling that the concept of voluntary-aided Islamic and Hindu schools is one which is not unworthy of serious

consideration.

The "voluntary-aided" or

church schools are a traditional

and important part of the

maintained sector of education in

England and Wales. They are

extremely popular with many

parents, a significant proportion

of whom send their children to

these schools because of their

religious convictions, whilst

others appreciate the structured

and disciplined ethos which

permeates many of these Anglican, Roman Catholic and, fewer

in number, Methodist and Jewish

schools.

Certainly, they make a significant

contribution to parental choice in education, and usually

give, for those who want it, a

very real expression to the

one who cannot be

alone in believing that church

schools make a necessary and

desirable contribution to education,

and in feeling that the

concept of voluntary-aided Islamic

and Hindu schools is one which is not unworthy of serious

consideration.

Case for ethnic minority schooling

From the Leader of the Opposition in the ILLEA

Sir, You report (January 23) Lord Scarman as saying that he would view with absolute horror the development of separate Islamic or Hindu schools; that his experience in Northern Ireland told him that one cause of the trouble there was the separate education of Protestant and Roman Catholic children, and that he did not want that to be mirrored in this country.

Following the publication of his balanced and widely acclaimed report on the Brixton disorders, April 10-12, 1981, I am hesitant to criticize Lord Scarman on any aspect of race relations, but there are issues here which deserve the most careful consideration.

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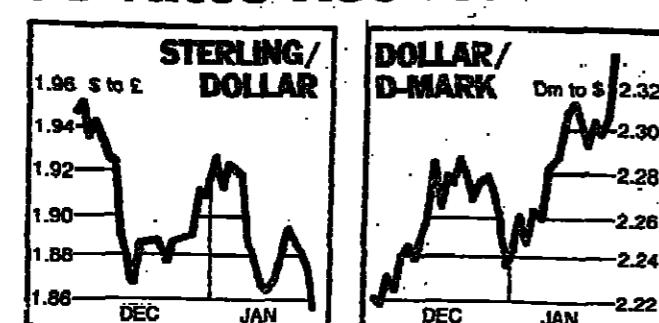
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BUSINESS NEWS

US rates rise fear



Friday's warning American money supply figures sent shivers through world financial markets yesterday as they waited to see how the Federal Reserve Board would respond. Fears that United States interest rates are set for a fresh surge boosted the dollar, with central bank intervention making little headway. Eurodollar deposit rates and the key Federal Funds rate rose sharply, though they eased a little towards the end of European trading when the Federal added reserves to the United States banking system. In London, the American news put paid to any further decline in interest rates, which formed a shade. Good trade figures had little impact on the pound, which lost nearly 2 cents, falling to \$1.8545. The FT index dropped 9.5 to 557.7.

Grade 'asked £5 a share'

Lord Grade, former chairman of Associated Communications Corporation, originally asked £5 a share to sell his voting stake to Mr Robert Holmes a'Court, the Australian financier, the High Court was told yesterday. The asking price was 36 per cent above the £36 bid. The hearing continues today in the attempt by Heron International, the rival bidders, to block the Australian bid.

De Lorean board meets

Mr John De Lorean, head of the troubled Belfast-based car maker, has called a board meeting in New York today to consider proposals put to him last week by Mr James Prior, Secretary for Northern Ireland. Two Northern Ireland Development Agency members with seats on the board will be at the meeting, which is expected to produce a salvage deal that may include redundancies and a cut in production.

Consumers spend savings

Consumer spending rose by 1 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of 1981, preliminary official figures show, suggesting that people ran down savings to offset the squeeze on incomes. Spending in 1981 as a whole was 4 per cent up on 1980, compared with a Budget forecast of a 1 per cent fall.

Cut by NatWest

National Westminster is encouraging use of the Government's loan guarantee scheme by cutting the interest rate it charges from 2% to 1% per cent above base rate. This makes NatWest the cheapest of the clearing banks on this scheme.

MARKET SUMMARY

An end to the euphoria

**FT Index 557.7 down 9.5
FT Giffs 63.52 down 0.63
FT all-share 319.95 down 3.44
Bargains 21.749**

Fears that the jump in United States money supply would mean higher interest rates ended last week's euphoria over lower rates at home and the market started the new three-week account with losses across the board.

The FT Index closed down 9.5 at 557.7, its lowest point of the day.

Gilt suffered the greatest falls, with losses of 1% at one stage although they recovered later on news of the December trade surplus to end the day with falls of 1-1%.

London equities followed falls of between 8p and 10p, including Unilever at 640p, ICI 328p, Lucas 228p and Hawker at 320p.

Banks were also down, in a thin market, and among the falls were Barclays 13p off at 450p, Grindlays down 2p at 198p and Natwest slipping 15p to close at 400p.

But after the traumatic Smith St Abacus experience there was some welcome relief in results from discount house Mercantile House, which reported 10% more than doubled profits with a 5% improvement to 450p. Alexander's Discount rose 13p to 252p after its results, with Union up 15p to 423p in advance of Wednesday's figures.

Pilkington slid 27p to 278p after adverse press comment on the state of European glass production. Elsewhere reorganization plans due to be announced today by Mr Geoffrey Kent, chairman, gave a 2p boost to Imperial Group to 77p, while press mention produced a 15p rise to 61p for Pittard.

Fears that the United States Congress may block the £600m British Aerospace "Hawk" con-

Textile ruling

Mrs Pamela Mason, ex-wife of actor James Mason, is to be replaced as administrator of the £1.3m estate of her father, textile tycoon Isidore Ostler, a High Court judge ruled yesterday. She had acted "irresponsibly" and unreasonably in carrying out her duties as administrator, and running the estate's main asset, the Bradford-based woollen textile company, Ilkley Morris, the judge said.

• Dreams of building an industrial empire in the Amazon jungle have come to an abrupt end. Page 15

• Which way for the stock markets? Page 14

LONDON EXCHANGE

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COMMODITIES

• Cocoa trading was cautious while members of the International Cocoa Organisation executive committee met in London to decide whether to take up the offer of a loan from Brazilian banks.

The near March position maintained its premium over May, at £1.80.50 a tonne, £22 more than May. Traders said they did not expect further buffer stock intervention before this week's talks are concluded.

The executive committee must decide whether to recommend to the full ICO meeting tomorrow that it should borrow \$75m (£40.4m) or £120m or find another way of funding the buffer stock manager's market intervention. One condition for the loan, to which European banks may contribute, is that the export levy be raised.

For the second trading day in succession standard cash in set a record trading high on the London Metal Exchange, reaching £8,710 per tonne during the morning session. At the afternoon close, standard cash was trading at £8,670 per tonne. The market remained in the grip of an extremely light technical situation.

CURRENCIES

• The dollar rose sharply on expectation of higher US interest rates. Sterling hit a "low" of £1.8500 before rallying.

LONDON CLOSE

• Sterling -

• \$1.8545 down 185 points

Index 90.7 down 0.2

DM 4.3350

Fr.F 11.0150

Yen 425

Dollar

Index 110.5 up 1.2

DM 2.3357 up 290 points

Gold

\$372.00 down \$2.75

MONEY MARKETS

• Period rates firmed slightly in response to US trends. The Bank of England's Band 1 intervention rate remained at 13% per cent.

Domestic rates:

Base rates 14%

3-month interbank 14%-14%

Euro-currency rates:

3-month dollar 15%-15%

3-month DM 10%-10%

3-month Fr.F 15%-15%

Trade figures show £331m surplus as government adviser is optimistic for 1982

N Sea oil sales push Britain into the black

By Melvyn Westlake

Britain's visible trade with the rest of the world showed a big surplus in December. It exported £331m more in value than it imported. But the surplus is more than accounted for by the sale of North Sea oil. Exports and imports of other goods were down from the peak November levels.

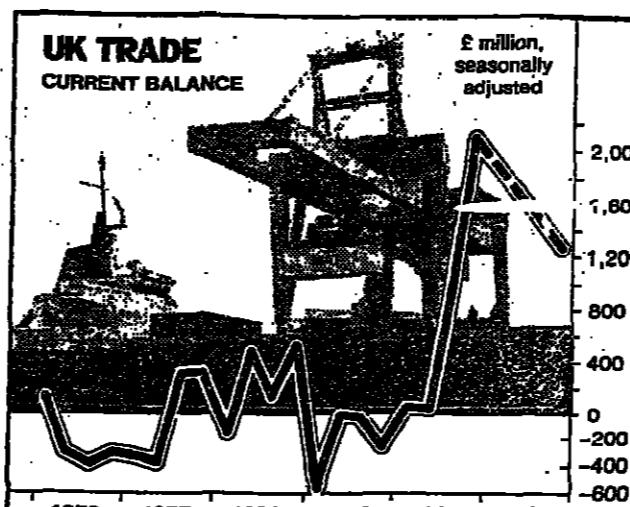
Exactly what has been happening to Britain's trade remains obscured by the civil servants' dispute which prevented figures being collected for six months.

The best estimate for 1981 is that there was probably a surplus of £6,000m on the current account, which includes invisibles transactions — trade in services, remittances of profits from abroad and government payments.

This would be twice the size of the surplus in 1980, and the sixth surplus in 12 years. In December alone, the current account was £48m in the black.

In a statement yesterday, Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, said the 1981 surplus was probably the biggest achieved by any major industrial nation.

However, this is largely the result of the economic recession of the last two years. Imports slumped as British companies attempted to clear



their shelves and warehouses as it was a sign that industry is stocking up again.

There are clear signs of imports picking up again strongly in the last quarter of 1981. They were up more than 20 per cent by volume compared with the same quarter a year earlier (excluding erratic items like ships, precious stones and North Sea installations).

In his statement, Mr Biffen referred to the growth in imports of basic materials and capital goods, which he saw as a good augury of Britain's continuing recovery

would rapidly be converted into a deficit.

Mr Biffen also placed a special emphasis yesterday on the relatively good success of exports despite fears that exporters would be crippled by the high exchange rate of the pound until recently. This made Britain's overseas goods very uncompetitive on foreign markets.

In the fourth quarter, the volume of exports was higher than the quarterly average in 1980 and 1979, even excluding oil and erratic items. On this basis, exports in the last three months of last year were some 6 per cent up on the same period of 1980. However, the export growth over that period was a good deal less than for imports.

The recent decline in the value of the pound against other currencies will have come just in time to help exporters struggling to maintain their share of the market.

Even by the early summer of 1981 Britain had begun to recover little of the competitiveness lost between 1978 and the beginning of 1981.

During this period competitiveness deteriorated by about 50 per cent. Some estimates now put the net loss of competitiveness at a little over 30 per cent.

Burns predicts growth over 1pc

By Frances Williams



Terry Burns: optimistic but cautious

Economic growth this year could well exceed the 1 per cent forecast by the Treasury in December. Mr Terry Burns, the government's chief economic adviser, said in a cautiously optimistic speech on economic policy and prospects yesterday.

Stressing the vagaries of the main measure of the money supply, sterling M3, he paved the way for a shift of emphasis in the Government's medium term monetary strategy to give more prominence to the exchange rate.

The Chancellor is due to present an updated version of the medium-term plan, which sets targets for monetary growth and public borrowing some years ahead, when he delivers his Budget on March 9.

Mr Burns gave no sign that Treasury Ministers were preparing to soften significantly their tough stance on monetary growth and public spending, despite demands by their "wet" critics which will be aired when the Cabinet discusses Budget strategy on Thursday.

Mr Burns, who was addressing a conference on "Pay this winter" organized by the Industrial Society in London, said that a slow recovery was now under way. Our December forecast looked to a growth of 1 per

cent in gdp in 1982 and there may be a greater chance of this being exceeded than the economy falling short of it.

He did not say, however, whether new Treasury forecasts, to be published with the Budget, show a higher growth rate.

He admitted that in the past two years sterling M3 alone had not proved a good indicator of monetary conditions which had been in fact restrictive. Significantly he reminded his audience that last year's Budget speech had made it clear that other monetary measures and the exchange rate would be taken into account when setting short term interest rates.

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BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

JAMES CAPEL

Brokers eye a bullish equity trend

Sentiment in the London stock market is decidedly bullish. It is possible, as James Capel points out in his new *Equity Market comment*, to see the FT 30-share index up by at least 40 per cent over the next 18 months.

There is plenty of logic to back this kind of forecast, which is why the danger of sky-high yields in the New York money and bond markets has not sent fund managers running for their United States "buy" lists.

Since the United Kingdom plunged into recession before the other major industrial countries there is a good chance that it will emerge first. The flow of funds out of the United Kingdom has slowed down, and more overseas fund managers are seeking to put cash into United Kingdom equities as well as the money markets.

Most of the important London stock brokers are forecasting a good improvement in company profits for 1982. In United Kingdom wages are coming in at 7.5 per cent level on average in the current round, productivity is improving, and destocking should soon ease off — all good reasons for better company profit performance.

Sterling is still too high to give a good boost to the competitiveness of United Kingdom exports. But at present levels it is less of a hindrance expensive.

Amidst the current and coming events, the March 8 Budget looks likely to give something of a boost to the corporate sector. The icy

and damp weather may have an adverse effect and soaring domestic fuel bills could squeeze the consumer goods purchase out of the family budget.

James Capel's way of looking at the figures is to start with the projection of corporate profits rising by at least 20 per cent over each of the next two years. Dividends, it points out, will rise in line with this because of the present low level of earnings cover. Capel suggests that dividends could only go up by perhaps 10 per cent each year.

But, and this seems to be the view it prefers, the lower level of inflation now being experienced should indicate a narrower gap

Moving on to the yields on gilts and equities in recent years, it sets up two scenarios. Under the first, which is more pessimistic about reflating and the level of interest rates it sees a 15 per cent yield on gilts. If the gap between that and the yield on equities is 7 per cent (it has averaged 7 over the last 10 years), then it reflects a rise of 15 per cent in the level of the market.

But, and this seems to be the view it prefers, the lower level of inflation now being experienced should indicate a narrower gap

between gilt and equity yields. Looking at the figures conservatively, Capel argues: "Gilt yields of 12 per cent, and a yield gap of 8 per cent imply a 4 per cent equity yield although equity yields have not been lower than 5 per cent since 1972/73. Even a 5 per cent basis would allow the market to rise by around 40 per cent from today's level taking the 30-share index above 700."

Without spelling out a forecast for the market as specifically as James Capel, the team who moved across from Phillips & Drew to Simon & Coates is also optimistic. In its view company profits could go up by 14 per cent in 1982. It sees the largest recoveries coming from engineering, building materials and clearing banks (very similar to James Capel's buying list).

It points out: "The equity market, contrary to general belief, has shown increased stability since the mid-1970s. We expect 1982 to bring a steady improvement in the market, with a continuation of the trend towards reduced volatility".

Phillips & Drew is bullish, but again less specifically (in cold print at least) than the others. It also looks at sectors, and picks out some of the leaders in textiles, paper, industrial materials, chemicals and engineering — in other words depressed manufacturing companies.

But, and this seems to be the view it prefers, the lower level of inflation now being experienced should indicate a narrower gap

MERCANTILE HOUSE

Making the most of a global spread

Shareholders in Mercantile House should be experiencing a warm glow. First-half pretax profits have doubled to £6.1m, just short of the last annual result, itself a twofold rise. The six-monthly dividend is up 40 per cent to 50p gross, while the share price, which stood at 345p when the company made its July two-for-five rights issue, is now 450p.

Any company so strategically positioned as to be the main channels carrying ever-increasing international capital flows could hardly go wrong. But Mercantile has taken full advantage of its position as a global spreader of risk.

The geographical spread of offices to Toronto, Sydney, San Francisco and Tokyo enables Mercantile to cover all time zones. Tokyo will open up business in Far East currencies, notably the yen further broadening the scope. New York, largely a domestic market, has grown almost to match London.

Big banks want to deal with big money brokers, so the new discounts on large volume transactions should encourage higher turnover. In the first half, turnover doubled to £31.7m. The recent revival of the European market should help as well.

Mercantile has shown a shrewd sense of how to make acquisitions



WEST GERMANY

Manesmann AG said its Manesmann Handel AG unit and Thyssen AG's Thyssen Stahlunion GmbH subsidiary have jointly won a Soviet order for over 1.2 million tonnes of 56-inch steel pipe.

The likelihood, therefore, is that full year profits will double again. This must be encouraging for the sector, since R.P. Martin will be reporting interim in about a month and Exco its annual figures at the beginning of March.

On this basis, Exco still best known as Astley & Pearce despite its triumphant market debut in October will make £12m for 1981. This should intensify the competition with Mercantile, particularly in the communications field. R.P. Martin made £705,000 in the first half of its last financial year and £2.17m. An increase of 220 per cent for the whole year.

Positive prospects did not stop money brokers' shares from easing yesterday, partly because the market was down and partly because of profit-taking after last week's vigorous run up. Mercantile closed at 458p, having reached 460p at one point, and Exco and R.P. Martin were 198p and 330p respectively.

Michael Prest

of Alexander Howden, not already owned by a subsidiary of A.G. Howden, accepted by holders of shares representing 76.9 per cent of the share capital for which the ordinary offers were made. All the conditions to the ordinary offers have now been satisfied or waived and accordingly the ordinary offer has been made unconditional in all respects.

Charterhouse Group's subsidiary, M6 Cash and Carry, will acquire Simeon (Croydon). Completion is anticipated by early March.

The company, which will become a subsidiary of M6, is a large independent wholesaler carrying out both a delivered trade and a cash and carry operation from its 50,000 sq ft unit at 44a Road, Croydon. In 1980, it made a pre-tax profit of £1.000 on a turnover of £5.264m.

Barclays Merchant Bank says on behalf of Town and City Properties that the offers for the share capital of Berkeley, Hambro, have been unconditional in all respects.

The offers for both the ordinary shares and preference stock of Berkeley Hambro remain open until 11.30am on Friday, January 28, when the cash alternatives are no longer available.

North Kalouli Mines acceptance in Metals Exploration's partial cash offer amounted to a final figure of 15.42m shares (28.55 per cent).

Alexander & Alexander Services ordinary offers for the share capital

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The United Rubber Workers Union will seek "meaningful" wage rises when contract talks with the big four tyre companies begin in March it was announced by union officials in St Louis.

UNITED STATES

The group of six US companies that handles imports of Mexican natural gas is negotiating to double shipments to 600 million cubic feet a day.

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UGANDA

Representatives of Ugandan, British, Belgian, French, Austrian and American banks and financing institutions have agreed on a tentative 265m plan to rebuild and redevelop Uganda's largest sugar estate at Kakira, 60 miles east of Kampala.

SWEDEN

The Swedish consumer price index, base 1980, fell 0.4 per cent in the year to December against a 0.3 per cent rise to 115.4 in November and a 0.4 per cent advance to 105.2 a year ago.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's consumer price index rose by 13.9 per cent in the year to December 1981, down from 15.8 per cent in 1980. The index reached 216.3 last December, up from 214.8 in November and 189.9 in December 1980.

WALL STREET

Base Lending Rates

Company	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan
Allied Steel	350	350	350	350	350
Alcoa	320	320	320	320	320
Americana	310	310	310	310	310
Am Airlines	300	300	300	300	300
Am Broadcast	290	290	290	290	290
Am Cyanamid	280	280	280	280	280
Am Electric Power	270	270	270	270	270
Am Gas	260	260	260	260	260
Am Nat Gas	250	250	250	250	250
Am Standard	240	240	240	240	240
AMT Inc	230	230	230	230	230
Armen Steel	220	220	220	220	220
Armstrong	210	210	210	210	210
Arrow International	200	200	200	200	200
Atlas Products	190	190	190	190	190
Bakers Twinkie	180	180	180	180	180
Bank of NY	170	170	170	170	170
Bear Stearns	160	160	160	160	160
Bethlehem Steel	150	150	150	150	150
Betco Cascade	140	140	140	140	140
Borden Warner	130	130	130	130	130
British Myers	120	120	120	120	120
Burlington Ind	110	110	110	110	110
Burneggs	100	100	100	100	100
Cambrian Pacific	90	90	90	90	90
Caterpillar	80	80	80	80	80
Central Soya	70	70	70	70	70
Chemical Bank	60	60	60	60	60
Chrysler	50	50	50	50	50
Citrus Services	40	40	40	40	40
Coca Cola	30	30	30	30	30
COFCO	20	20	20	20	20
Combustion Eng	10	10	10	10	10
Commercial Eng	10	10	10	10	10
Computer Eng	10	10	10	10	10
Corporation Eng	10	10	10	10	10
Cost Foods	10	10	10	10	10
Continental Corp	10	10	10	10	10
Corning Glass	10	10	10	10	10
Cookson Ind	10	10	10	10	10
Duke Power	10	10	10	10	10
E. I. du Pont	10	10	10	10	10
Edgar Allen	10	10	10	10	10
Edison Int'l	10	10	10	10	10
Electrosteel	10	10	10	10	10
Farm Credit	10	10	10	10	10
FMC	10	10	10	10	10
Foster Wheeler	10	10	10	10	10
Gulf & West	10	10	10	10	10
Halliburton	10	10	10	10	10
Harsco	10	10	10	10	10
Hewlett Packard	10	10	10	10	10
Hillman	10	10	10	10	10
Hollingsworth & Vose	10	10	10	10	10
Honeywell	10	10	10	10	10
IBM	10	10	10	10	10
Ingersoll Rand	10	10	10	10	10
International Harvester	10	10	10	10	10
J.C. Penney	10	10	10	10	10
Johnson & Johnson	10	10	10	10	10
Kerr-McGee	10	10	10	10	10
Lever Bros	10	10	10	10	10
Libby-Owens-Ford	10	10	10	10	10

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Tannoy is back in Britain

They have not exactly broadcast the news, but the six British directors of Tannoy have bought out the company from its American owners, Beatrice Foods.

Directors Norman Crocker (managing), David Bissett-Powell, Ian Dunn, Peter Russell, Peter Wilcox and "Stanley" Livingstone, keep their jobs. So, too, do the 140 staff of Tannoy's London and Coatbridge Strathclyde Crocker and the Tannoy team, I'm told, secured this lively firm at a knockdown price with the help of commercial law expert David Haggart and Beatrice's wish to de-conglomerate. Barclays Bank come up with about £1m, covering both purchase and immediate funding.

Tannoy long ago diversified from the public address systems that made the company a household word to millions of service people in the war. The company exports more than three-quarters of what it makes, ranging from hi-fi and studio speakers (sold in Japan under the Tannoy name) to wired gun control systems sold in the Middle East.



D'you suppose some Cornish nutter will try to burn it down?

Sweet day, so cool

Daniel Boulud is finding life sweet in his latest job, that of chef to the EEC ambassador to Washington, Vicomte Roland de Kerorlay.

The ambassador recruited Boulud in Brussels to soften up the mighty of Washington with *nouvelle cuisine* at the residence in Belmont Road.

But of late Belmont Road has been clogged with the limousines of Washington's hostesses, dispatched to bring back 10lb boxes of chocolate truffles at \$120 a time. Chauffeurs asking for smaller quantities were supplied by two stores supplied by Boulud.

The chef, having sniffed America's entrepreneurial air, had gone into business for himself. But since jokes have begun to circulate around Washington about the "European Chocolate Community", Boulud has been asked not to rustle his sweet wrappers so loud.

● Design and marketing were on the agenda at Number Ten Downing Street last night, not of a prime ministerial meeting with the Conservative Party's new Director of Marketing, Christopher Lawson, but of a seminar Mrs Thatcher held for senior executives on "product design and market success". She urged business people to remedy what she sees as British industry's neglect of good design.

Appeals on Wheels

Mrs Audrey Barter (below) paid an unexpected and unusual return visit to the City yesterday.

Accompanied by the pipe and drum band of the Scots Guards she called at the Stock Exchange and was allowed onto the trading floor in her wheelchair to collect money for Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Mrs Barter met many old friends for she was the manageress of Slaters', a restaurant now sadly closed but once very popular with the market.

**NEW APPOINTMENTS**

Mr John S Fraser has been appointed corporate managing director Ciba-Geigy Plastics and Additives, in succession to Dr K W Humphreys. Mr Fraser will also retain his existing responsibilities as head of the Ildford Photographic Group and a member of the board of Ciba-Geigy (UK).

Mr Peter Guest has been appointed sales and marketing director of Bonar Long.

Mr A P Dignum has been appointed assistant managing director of Dixons Photographic (UK).

Generics are cheaper because:

	Non Generic Buyers	Generic Buyers
No advertising	43%	37%
Cheap label	38%	29%
Cheaper Packaging	21%	13%
Lower quality	15%	38%

The actual (as opposed to perceived) components of the

A new consortium is taking over the Jari project. Patrick Knight reports

How the Amazon defeated an American millionaire

São Paulo
The Amazon jungle has claimed another illustrious victim — millionaire Daniel K. Ludwig, aged 84, whose enormous Jari forestry and pulp project is being acquired by a consortium of 23 banks and private companies, with major government participation.

The consortium was being formally inaugurated in Brasilia yesterday. Brazilians are not sure whether to celebrate or cry.

Ludwig, said to be the richest man in the world, but now an ailing recluse in New York battalions with Jari for 14 years. He is giving up after pouring more than \$1,000m of his own money into the 4 million acre project, the largest piece of real estate in the world, and he will be paid nothing for at least five years.

That an octogenarian American millionaire should feel that the Amazon has, finally, become too much for him, is perhaps not too surprising, what does give pause for thought, however, is that the man who has put together the package to take over the Jari project is himself a septuagenarian — 75 year old Brazilian Senator Augusto Azevedo Antunes, an old friend of Ludwig.

Can he do better? The problems which mounted up and finally overwhelmed Ludwig, were certainly formidable.

The final straw for him was ostensibly the delay by the authorities in giving definite legal title to about half the land. But as Ludwig has only planted trees on about a twelfth of the area so far, that cuts little ice. The real reason, as the Brazilians who are taking it over now realize, is that the project in its present form is not viable. Hundreds of millions more dollars will have to be risked to make it so.

When Ludwig was first invited to invest in Brazil, in the heady days of the late 1950s the "miracle" years, when the economy was growing at 10 per cent and more a year, he was given the red carpet treatment. All obstacles would be swept away, and he would be left alone, as long as he put up the cash. This was the sort of deal Ludwig liked. Used to shipping, when a shrewd one voyage charter could sometimes recoup the cost of a supertanker, he set about conquering the Amazon in the same way.

He bought the world's biggest and most sophisticated machines to clear the jungle. He scoured the globe to find the technology for a pulp factory which could be towed around the world to Jari. This would avoid the costly problem of assembling sophisticated plant deep in the Amazon, something which wary mining engineers refer to with respect as "Amazon factor", and which they say can push construction costs to three times what they are elsewhere.

As the years passed, and the land was cleared and planted, Ludwig found that many of his high technology methods were unsuitable. The big machines got bogged down, and had to be abandoned. The fast-growing smelting trees from Nigeria and Indonesia did not do well on sandy Jari soils, and have largely been replaced by the eucalyptus and Caribbean pine; everybody else plants in Brazil. But Ludwig, who runs his



Jari: its mounting problems overwhelmed the millionaire American

companies largely on his own did not like to be told things were not working out. Men who dared to do so were often fired. All sorts of scare stories started to emerge from Jari, coinciding with the period of political liberalization, and the

Ludwig tried to keep his labour force on site and prevent men going back to the coastal town of Belém every time they received a pay packet.

To encourage them to stay, however, Ludwig built schools, hospitals, and good housing. He provided free electricity and water, and there are supermarkets which sell at reasonable prices, unknown in Amazonia. There is a railway, a port, and an airfield. In fact — and this has proved a major problem — a costly infrastructure was put in to sustain the production of three thousand tons of pulp a day, four times what is actually produced.

On top of problems of his own making, the climate of opinion about Jari itself began to change. Echoes of the nationalist campaign against Jari, stressing the exploitation of Brazil by foreigners, began to be felt. Ministers sensed that Jari could be a liability.

The old Brazilian maxim, first coined by 1930s dictator President Getúlio Vargas "for my friends, everything, for my enemies, the law" began to be applied.

So the immovable object has come into collision with the irresistible force, and Ludwig has disposed of Jari. Selling is the wrong word. He will not get a cent for at least five years, if he lives that long, and then only between 3 and 5 per cent of whatever profits Jari by then brings in. Having no heirs, the money will go to the Ludwig cancer research foundation, in Switzerland.

Augusto Antunes, who now takes up the burden of Jari, is a wealthy industrialist who in partnership with Bethlehem Steel, has been mining manganese in the hills close to Jari for 23 years. He is Brazil's second largest iron ore exporter, and has ranching and forestry

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The huge enclave Ludwig was setting up, close to borders with Venezuela and the Guyanas, looked very suspicious to those who believed there was a plot for the imperialists to get hold of Amazonia. Some suggested Ludwig was collaborating with the CIA and was in partnership with reactionary forces in Brazil. The secretive Ludwig did not help himself. Jari became like a separate country, and access even for government officials was made difficult.

Journalists were barred and often made up stories. They had plenty to go on. To try to reduce massive labour turnover, in a region where cash payments were often unknown,

in the grocery industry, and there are many manufacturers and some distributors with a vested interest in their failure. Accordingly, there have been forecasts that generics would be "a passing fad" or that they would "only be of appeal to the poorer shoppers".

A project carried out by

The only groups who were significantly less likely to have purchased generics were those over 65 and the one or two-person households.

The purchasing of ten specific generic items was surveyed in detail and customer satisfaction proved high. In only two cases did less than 75 per cent of those who had tried the product intend to continue buying the generic version.

The survey showed that 80 per cent of the Yellow Pack purchases represented a switch from a manufacturer's brand, 20 per cent from the Fine Fare brand. Although the manufacturer brands were the bigger target, this indicates a substantial overall increase in the proportion of trade taken by the retailer's two product ranges.

The indications from both home and abroad are that they have not yet seen the full impact of generic generics.

In the United States generic have captured 5 per cent share of the \$200,000m supermarket market and some forecasts suggest that the share could reach 25 per cent by the end of the decade. Generics have become the main competitive weapon both between American supermarkets and against the restaurants.

Harlow Unger, a commentator on the American retailing scene said: "Now, at last, it's cheaper for Americans to eat at home!"

By comparison, British retailers have been cautious in their approach to generics, some possibly reluctant to precipitate an all out "generic war". Carrefour and Fine Fare have been the most willing exponents of the concept, but the Tesco launch in Scotland could be just a beginning. Allied Suppliers is also experimenting with a "generic store", a form of response to the limited range discounters that has already been seen in the United States.

The pressure upon other retailers will inevitably increase.

Many shops within the Mace group have adopted some or all of its 26 "Basic" products, which have started to bring generics into the corner — shop type of outlet.

Generics represent an intensification of competition

Austerity returns to the supermarkets

For this reason, it is not entirely surprising that the development of generics has been far from welcomed by most grocery manufacturers. Although they offer an opportunity to smaller manufacturers or to major manufacturers with excess capacity, in general they are seen as another manifestation of the growing power of the large, multiple retailers.

Fine Fare launched its "Yellow Packs" in 1980. Unlike Carrefour, which started the trend in France in 1976, with its "Produits Libres" — Fine Fare already had an extensive range of about 450 products retailing under its own name. The Yellow Packs represented in effect a second retailer brand in its stores.

Two more major British multiples became involved in 1981: Allied Suppliers with its "Basics" and Tesco with its "Value Lines".

Generics represent an intensification of competition

Awareness and purchase of Yellow Packs

Aware Purchased

Occupation: AB 100% 86%
C1 96% 84%
C2 94% 82%
DE 83% 79%

Business Editor

As US interest rates climb ...

Are the Europeans going to fall at the first hurdle, as they set off on a course to lower interest rates? The simple answer is that it is too early to tell. When European interest rates were led down last week, it was not done in total blindness of what was happening in the United States. The theory must be that at some stage this spring, American interest rates will resume a falling trend, and that the dollar, too, will start to slip.

For the moment, though, the ride is clearly going to be extremely bumpy and the riders may yet be unseated. Last week's United States money supply was again appreciably worse than expected, and yesterday's opening Fed Funds rate of more than 15 per cent, was enough to send the shivers down plenty of spines. Hardly surprisingly, the Bank of England made it clear to the discount houses that the fall in British short-term rates had gone far enough for the moment. It also has been conducting "smoothing" operations in the foreign exchange market.

The real question is how much pressure the Bank can stand if the going gets really tough. While it can probably allow period money market rates to rise a good half per cent before it starts to feel uncomfortable at the very short end of the interest rate spectrum, it is questionable how far it would want to intervene in the foreign exchange markets.

But the take over solves almost nothing, except to rescue Brazilian pride and save Brazilian face, as businessmen reluctant to participate are pointing out. For Jari to be viable, pulp exports would have to be doubled, preferably trebled. The necessary thousand-tonnes-a-day plant would cost at least \$500m. Where is that to come from?

If it is not raised, Jari is

just a magnificent new town deep in the Amazon jungle, providing very good living conditions for the 7,000 or so on site, and scratchings for the further 35,000 who have been attracted to the town outside, called "Beyond the Palms".

For all the critics' carping, if Jari were to disappear under the jungle carpet, as other projects by illustrious names such as Ford, have done, they would have a lot to answer for. Many in Brasilia acknowledge an immense debt to Daniel Ludwig in finding out, albeit the hard way, how to deal with Amazonia.

But

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up the burden of Jari, is a wealthy industrialist who in partnership with Bethlehem Steel, has been mining manganese in the hills close to Jari for 23 years. He is Brazil's second largest iron ore exporter, and has ranching and forestry

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Stock Exchange Prices

Heavy selling of gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. 5 Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

Forward borrows are permitted on two previous days

The logo for Taylor Woodrow consists of the company name "TAYLOR WOODROW" in a bold, serif font, with "TAYLOR" on top and "WOODROW" below it. Above the text is the slogan "TEAMWORK IN CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING, DESIGN AND ENERGY-WORLDWIDE." Below the text is a black and white graphic illustration of four stylized human figures in profile, facing right, appearing to be working together on a construction project.

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

Football

Luck smiles on Spurs but frowns on Aston Villa

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Tottenham Hotspur have played 25 double-games up to now in the last three years, 21 of them in London. The odd one out was the FA Cup semi-final last year at Hillsborough, the neutral venue where they drew with Wolverhampton Wanderers. Even then, the replay was held at Highbury, a few miles from their home.

It was no surprise that yesterday's draw for the fifth round of the FA Cup Spur should be drawn at White Hart Lane again, it was equally predictable that Aston Villa should be drawn away. They have been on the last 15 occasions. The odds in the only match between first division clubs on February 13.

They opened the season by sharing four goals in the Charity Shield in August, although Villa won emphatically at Tottenham in the league four nights later. They have since slumped down the table. With Blackpool tonight, will remember their last journey to Gay Meadow, and Burley would prefer to forget

The plantkillers of the fourth round, Oxford United and Watford, both visit the Midlands. Oxford's manager, Ian Greaves, was the guest on last Saturday's Match of the Day programme after the victory at Brighton and he will renew acquaintances with Jimmy Hill, Coventry City's chairman.

Two other old colleagues will meet again at Fulham Street. Steve Rice, Watford's captain, was in Arsenal's League and Cup winning side of 1971 with Kelly, of Leicester City. Nor is that the end of the reunion. Deegan, of Coventry, met Neale, of Middlesbrough last Saturday. The former, now 35, will face his former side, West Bromwich Albion, as will Jones, once of Liverpool, and now of Wrexham, in tonight's match on the 10th February 6 and if Queen's Park Rangers beat Blackpool tonight, will hope to use the experience for the cup tie the following Saturday.

FA Cup fifth-round pairings

Blackpool or Queen's Park Rangers v Grimsby Town
Chelsea or Wrexham v Liverpool
Coventry City v Oxford United
Crystal Palace v Huddersfield Town or Orient

Matches to be played on February 13.

Bristol City call for player cut

By Stuart Jones

Bristol City, on the brink of insolvency yesterday took the drastic step of calling for a reduction of the staff by eight first team players. After a special meeting in the afternoon to discuss the scheme, the players involved found it unacceptable and announced that they would leave Gordon Taylor, the secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association.

Mr Taylor agreed to hold an emergency meeting at Ashton Gate this week and added: "Unless the game's financials completely revolutionise, we could have the season postponed elsewhere. The important thing from the players' point of view is to ensure that the terms of the settlement are adequate."

The eight include five players who have left the club since the start of the first division only two years ago—Merrick, a former captain, Mann, Garland, Talton and Rogers. The other three—Aitken, Hay and Marshall—are more recent acquisitions. It is believed that those with first division experience have contracts worth between £20,000 and £25,000 a year.

Some of the players will be offered the chance to sell their contracts and move on to a new club, others will be made available immediately for free transfers. City hopes to negotiate a deal of £100,000 to buy back the contracts. The chairman, Archie Coombes, said: "The cuts we are having to make are savage but there is no other way we can survive."

Last Saturday the cruellest of defeats knocked the team off the FA Cup. Since Aston Villa, being credited with the goal, within an hour of that defeat, Mr Gooch decided that he had no alternative but to introduce the cures.

City are currently more than £70,000 in debt and are losing £2,000 a week. A manager, chosen by a firm of accountants, who plotted Luton Town's recovery a few years ago, is nearing completion. It is known that they have already insisted on a huge reduction in the annual wage bill of £50,000.

The club also plans to withdraw its reserve side from the Combination League as another economy measure. They are third from bottom of the third division and have recently lost their manager. Some players are in danger of dropping from the first to the fourth division in successive seasons.

Butcher in hospital

Terry Butcher, the Ipswich Town defender, was admitted to hospital yesterday for a blood transfusion after having broken his leg on Saturday. He will miss the game against Notts County at the weekend.

Cormack will be asked to retract criticism

Peter Cormack, manager of Partick Thistle, will be asked to retract public criticism of three of his players—or stand accused of bringing the game into disrepute by the Scottish Players' Union.

Mr Cormack, aged 34, the youngest manager in the premier division, criticised Tony Higgins, John Lapsley and Brian Whitaker, after Thistle's surprise 2-1 home defeat by Dumfries in the mid-point of the Scottish Cup on Sunday. He accused the players of being "a disgrace to their profession" and said they "didn't want to play for me or the club".

Harry Lawrie, the Players' Union secretary, said yesterday: "I am writing to Thistle's man Miller Reid asking for a retraction of Peter Cormack's remarks."

Rumours rife in Italy

Two years after the betting scandal that shook Italy, the country's professionals have been interrogated about a new possible situation.

Investigators from the league visited dressing rooms of all first and second division teams before the start of Sunday's games and questioned players about whether they had made any bets or had been approached during the week by the betting fraternity.

The players also played that they would report any approaches immediately. The investigation was launched after the league received reports that people implicated in the last scandal were trying again to entice players to fix games.

All four leading Italian clubs were away from home. The first three drew 1-0, Roma lost ground by losing 1-0 to Atalanta.

Fiorentina had an under-tensioned 1-1 draw at the bottom-club Como, falling back on defence after Vierchowod put them ahead. Justice was done when

Draw gives Jones perfect incentive

By Stuart Jones

Jones has Liverpool in his sights—and that is bad news for tonight's FA Cup replay opponents, Chelsea. The Welsh international, who turned 21 yesterday, will be the fifth-round draw, giving Wrexham the chance of a lucrative home tie against his former Liverpool colleagues. However, Wrexham's manager, Mel Sutton, is keeping calm. "We hardly know about Liverpool," he said. "There is still a long way to go."

McNeil and Vinter have back injuries. Buxton has a bruised left wrist. Edwards, forced to sit out Saturday's good draw, is hoping to be fit for the replay. Chelsea's manager, John Neal, left Wrexham for Middlesbrough in May 1977—took

a squad of 17, returned to Wrexham's Park Rangers also expect to be full strength for their replay with Blackpool. The fourth division side who planned a work-out on Rangers' Loftus Road, Omuniturf, later yesterday, are without their key defenders and are awaiting a decision on whether to award themselves a second division match against Derby County.

Gerry Francis plays his second match for Coventry City against Birmingham City at St Andrews. The former England captain, on loan from Queens Park Rangers, missed Saturday's FA Cup draw at Manchester City.

Chelsea to challenge FA

On the eve of Chelsea's fourth round FA Cup replay at Wrexham tonight, Lord Cheshire, their chairman, declared that he will today take leading counsel's advice in a move to challenge the Football Association rule that makes clubs responsible for the actions of their fans at away matches.

He said last night: "The FA has made a complete nonsense of this. I am not questioning the penalties imposed on club members. I am talking of some of those who followed us to Derby on November 28. What I am questioning is how we—or any

club—can be held responsible for the conduct of those who masquerade as supporters in a stadium over which we have no control. We were in no way responsible for the ticketing, the advertising, the car-parking and the policing arrangements at Derby."

He added: "I am just as much in the dark as anyone else."

Nottingham Forest's chairman, Geoffrey Marlow, described the action of Mr Neal as "sheer piggery".

Mr Neal, who has been at Wrexham for 13 years, is likely to be around £600,000.

The Manchester City midfielder, Gerry Gow, meets the Rotherham manager, Emyln Hughes, today to discuss a possible £75,000 transfer.

Forest agree to Robertson transfer request

John Robertson, Nottingham Forest's Scottish international winger, has been placed on the transfer list at his own request.

He said yesterday that he was unhappy with the role the management were expecting him to play.

Robertson, aged 28, said: "I want to play as a winger, but they expect me to play a different role. I don't like it and I am sure it would affect my World Cup chances."

The asking price for Robertson, who has been at Forest for 13 years, is likely to be around £600,000.

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Rumours rife in Italy

Nicolai equalized from a free-kick.

Juventus also drew 1-1, at second from bottom Cesena, Brio equalizing after Garofoli had put Cesena in front. Bergamo's equalizer 30 seconds from time gave Inter Milan a 2-2 draw at Ascoli but at Atalanta nothing went right for Roma's Brazilian Falcao, whose misplaced pass led to the only goal, scored by another Brazilian, Júnior.

The only five first division matches played in West Germany all involved the top clubs.

Everton Minich maintained their one point lead over Borussia Mönchengladbach by beating Darmstadt 4-1.

Mönchengladbach overcame

Fortuna Düsseldorf 3-0 and Cologne defeated Nürnberg 4-2, drawing their first two

A lucky own goal kept Real

Madrid on top of the Spanish

league after Tomaszewski, the Hercules goalkeeper, Real stayed a point ahead of Barcelona

Rugby Union

Blakeway takes selectors' eye

By Peter West

The Gloucester tight head prop, Philip Blakeway, and the Cardiff No. 8, John Scott, took part in some extra preparation for the England forwards at Stourbridge last evening before the national team went down to choose their side for next Saturday's Twickenham on Saturday.

London Scottish, the runners-up

to Coventry in 1979, have

met the fourth round draw in London yesterday. Ties will be played on February 27.

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Cricket

Not a renaissance as many believe but more like a rape

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Sydney, Jan 25

For three weeks I have been warning of the threat which faces Test cricket in Australia. Few, with the exception of the leading players, seem either to notice or to care. For the most part, from the public to the press, they have been brainwashed into believing that they are witnessing not the rape of a great national game but its renaissance.

As to my bringing the subject up again you must blame Lynton Taylor, managing director of Publishing and Broadcasting Ltd, the Ken Foden subsidiary, whose brief it is to promote Test cricket in Australia.

That, among other things, is what PBL and Channel Nine would say about this, if the ABC were to want it, could be a test of everyone's faith. It would be necessary, for one thing, to rescind their clause in the original agreement signed on May 20, 1979, between the ACE and Mr Packer, which states that "the international one-day series shall be conducted during the period commencing in the last week of November and ending at the end of the first week in February".

As a rejoinder to Mr Taylor's prognostication, Steve Camacho,

three weeks to the international one-day competition after the Test matches are over. Being the specialized form of cricket it is it would be possible in that way even to reinforce a side in tour with one-day experts.

It should be practicable for England to arrive, say, in late October, play three Tests before Christmas, a fourth starting on January 1 in Melbourne and a fifth in Sydney in the New Year before launching out on the one-day match after another and so forth being seen in Sheffield.

The quality of cricket is bound to drop".

On behalf of the Australian team, Kim Hughes, speaking after their two one-day defeats at the week-end, said that "the amount of cricket we are playing is taking its toll and some has got to give. Signs of wear and tear are starting to show on our top players. The enjoyment we get from the game is also severely tested". Finally, and mercifully, Hughes made a plea for Test cricket - "We got a bigger thrill out of beating West Indies in the Test here last month than ever we could get out of winning a one-day competition".

What the Australian Cricket Board are doing little more than giving shelter and respectability to the circus they fought so passionately to destroy. Inadvertently, perhaps, Mr Taylor may have shown them so.

In search of prestige

Sydney, Jan 25 — Desperate to regain their former status, weekend's two World Series Cup fixtures, Australia face West Indies at the Sydney Cricket Ground tomorrow, rent by a statement from their vice-captain, Kim Hughes, that the Australian fast bowlers are too tired.

Hughes said at the end of Sunday's rout of Australia by West Indies in the heat of Melbourne Cricket Ground: "Age is beginning to tell on our bowlers".

This brought a quick rejoinder from Dennis Lillee: "Kim Hughes would be better off looking at his own form before pointing the bone at me or any other of the Australian fast bowlers".

Bud Spencer, who was denominating for Gough, said: "I am fatigued, said: "The heavy session is starting to tell on our older bowlers, who are all over 30. We need some young blokes to come in — I don't know where are going to get them — off the bench, anywhere."

Agreed or not, the Australian team has been recalled to the Australian team for the third and final Test match against West Indies in Adelaide, on January 30.

Australians will be hoping that the West Indies' fast bowlers remain fit enough to be available for the game.

Hughes is suffering from a

bruised foot, so Greg Ritchie, the hard-hitting young Queensland right-handed batsman, is standing in for Hughes cannot play.

The selectors have already brought the South Australian captain and dashing left-hand batsman, David Hookes, into their team. He is certain to play for Australia.

Should Hughes drop out, Ritchie is likely to come into the side at the expense of Dyson.

The West Indies are keen to

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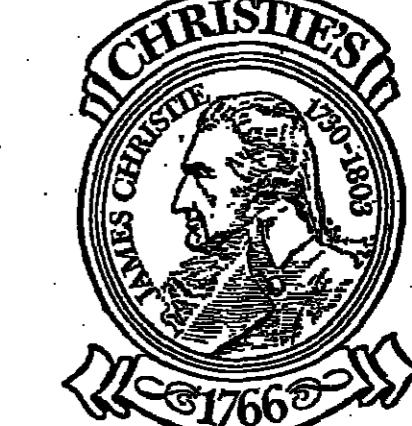
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

Radio 4

VHF

Radio 3

Radio 2

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: The Catalans. 9.35 French conversation. 9.53 Spanish conversation. 10.10 Look and Read. 10.35 The English Language at work. 11.00 With Captain Cook to Australia. 11.17 Television Club. 11.38 Shakespeare in Perspective: Julius Caesar. 12.05 The Future for Industry? 12.30 News After Noon, with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only): Financial report and news headlines with sub-titles). 1:00 Pebble Mill at One includes the feature that illustrates the exploits of explorers, Spirit of Adventure. 1.45 Bod and the Kite narrated by John Le Mesurier and Maggie Henderson (1.20 You and Me, for the very young. 2.15 For Schools, Colleges: How a pop song is recorded. 2.40 Preparing a Television Programmes. 3.00 Interval. 3.15 The Welsh Country. 3.30 series: "40 So You Want to Stop Smoking". Practical advice on beating the addiction (4.35 Regional news (not London).

11.00 Play School. For the under fives. 11.25 Closedown. 3.55 Girl in a Glider. With 16-year-old Judith Mountford as she nears her first solo flight (7).



John Stonehouse: BBC 2, 8.20pm

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC2). 4.20 Cartoon: Secret Squirrel (r). 4.25 Jackanory. Jan Francis reads parts two of Bravo Balfasar. 4.40 Animal Magic How a spider weaves its web. 5.05 John Craven's Newround. 5.10 Grange Hill. Drama concerning the staff and pupils of a secondary school. 5.40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 Regional news magazines. 6.25 Nationwide. 6.55 Cartoon: The Little Mole. 7.05 Dr Who. The final episode of Four to Doomsday. 7.30 A Question of Sport. Willie Carson captains Peter Scudamore and Terry Griffiths against Bill Beaumont's team of Linsey MacDonald and Frank Stapleton. 8.00 Terry and June. Domestic comedy starring Terry Scott and June Whitfield. 8.30 Solo Comedy series about a modern lady. Felicity Kendall plays Gemma with Elspet Gray as her mother.

9.00 News read by John Humphrys. 9.25 Play for Today: Commitments by Dusty Springfield. It is 1973 and Hugh is so upset about the three-day weeks, electricity cuts and strikes that he is spurred into political action. 10.50 Gladys Knight and the Pips. (r). 11.23 News headlines. 11.25 Taking Issue. Robin Day chairs a discussion between Lord Scarman and Professor Ronald Dworkin on "How should we attack racial disadvantage?"

BBC1 VARIATIONS: Cyprus/Wales. 9.00am-9.10 Closedown. 9.10-9.35 Ysolda: Dideridet. 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales. 1.00-1.15 Closedown. 5.10-5.40 Round Y Byd. 6.00-6.25 Wales Today. 7.00-7.30 Wales Weather. 8.00-8.30 Wales Tonight. 9.00-9.30 Wales News. 10.30-11.00 For Schools, Colleges. 11.17-11.30 Northern Ireland News. 11.30-12.00 Northern Ireland News. 11.30-12.00 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.25 Score Around Six. 8.30-8.55 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.25 Score Around Six. 8.30-8.55 Northern Ireland News. 11.30-12.00 Northern Ireland News. 6.00pm-6.25 Regional news magazines. 12.00 Closedown.

4.25 Exmoor Man. A documentary on the year in the life of Tom Rook, who seems to know everybody who lives on the moor (1). 5.25 A Walk Down a Long Room. Robin Bellamy tells the comic story of the MCC's one and only tour of the Congo (r). 5.40 Undersea Kingdom*. Part eleven: Flaming Death. 6.00 The Waltons. A story of everyday mountain folk in the years before the Second World War.

6.50 News with subtitles.

6.55 Film: Cathy's Child (1978) starring Michele Fawdon and Alan Cassell. A dramatic story of a woman searching for her daughter who has been snatched by her estranged husband.

8.20 Russell Harty. An exclusive interview with John Stonehouse.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangerous in part two of The Day of the Gods. 4.20 Emu's World. Starring Rod Hull and his mischievous pet. 4.45 CB TV — Channel 14. News, views and ideas for young people. 5.15 Emmerdale Farm. Jackie Merrick's tardiness is beginning to rankle Joe. 5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News. 6.20 Help! Martin Shaw, a clinical psychologist presents the second programme designed to help people who want to give up smoking. 6.30 Crossroads. Reg Lamont has a word with his son about Sharon Metcalfe. 6.55 Reporting London. A magazine programme presented by Denis Tuohy. 7.30 The Jim Davidson Show. The cockney comic has Bob Todd among his guests. 8.00 Don't Rock the Boat. Comedy series about a boatyard owner, his young wife and two adult sons. 8.30 On Top of the World. Inter-continental quiz presented by Eamonn Andrews.

9.00 Pot Black 82. The off-conquering Steve Davis of London against the Irish Champion Dennis Taylor. 9.25 Arana: What Makes Rabbit Run? The first full length documentary on the American author John Updike. 10.25 Caret Weight: The Last of the Late Victorians. The seventy-year-old author and old friend John Fowles about his work including some of the paintings to be seen in his forthcoming touring exhibition. 10.50 Newsnight. Following a resume by John Tusa on the country's economic difficulties, there will be a discussion between Leon Brittan, Shirley Williams and Peter Shore. Ends at 11.40.

9.00 Muck and Brass. Public Relations. Midlands builder and developer Tom Craig plans to develop a site colloquially known as Spooks Hole. The problems surrounding this development would seem to be insurmountable to anyone except a wheeler-dealer like Craig. Mel Smith stars as Tom Craig. 10.00 News. 10.30 The Standard Drama Awards for 1981 introduced by Ned Sherrin. Highlights from the luncheon presentations at London's Savoy Hotel to the Best Actor, Actress, Play, Comedy and Director of 1981. 11.30 Kaz. A member of a prominent society family is on trial for murder. 12.25 Close with a reading by Gillian Reynolds to relax you at the end of the day.

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● It is not often that a Schools programme is brought to adult viewers' attention but THE FUTURE FOR INDUSTRY? (BBC 1, 12.05 pm) will be of interest to anybody connected with the high technology business. The BBC's Economics Correspondent, Mark Rogerson, discusses the growing use of robots as substitutes for humans in repetitive jobs and comments on the increasing computer technology. These advancements are taken for granted by today's children who are growing up with the chip but how is the older generation adapting to techniques which to them are totally foreign?

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Union demands public inquiry on Penlee tragedy

By Nicholas Timmins and Craig Seton

A public inquiry into the Penlee lifeboat disaster may still be set up once the preliminary Department of Trade inquiry into the tragedy is complete at the end of next month.

Mr Iain Sproat, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Trade, said yesterday he had an open mind on an inquiry, after hearing allegations from Mr Jim Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, that the Union Star, the cargo vessel lost with eight lives when the lifeboat went down, was not properly crewed.

Mr Slater said yesterday that of the Union Star had been flying under the British rather than the Irish flag, it would have needed seven qualified crew rather than the five men on board.

The ship's owners, Union Transport, denied both allegations. The Department of Trade, however, confirmed that if the Union Star had been British registered seven qualified crew would have been needed.

The Irish Department of Transport refused to comment directly because of its own inquiry, but said that "our regulations are exactly the same as the British regulations, all down the line".

Mr Slater, who saw Mr Sproat with Mr John Prescott, Labour MP for Kingston upon Hull, East, said: "The whole thing needs to be investigated."

Mr Slater said there were three Europeans and two men from the Cape Verde islands on board the Union Star to sail the vessel through the English Channel, which encompassed the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

Such a small crew could not possibly keep a round-the-clock watch, he said. Seven was the minimum needed for safe manning.

The ship's engineer, he said, held only a class three certificate, "well below the qualified engineers standard". Mr Slater said that on a maiden voyage such as the Union Star's, with the engines heading down, a fully qualified engineer with a class one certificate should have been on board.

The Department of Trade said, however, that a class four certificate, with the necessary endorsements, was all that was needed. A maiden voyage did not alter that.

A spokesman for Union Transport said at first that the vessel had a crew of six, but

then conceded that one was the master's wife, who was registered as cook. (The other two people on board were her daughters). He maintained that the ship could legally sail with a crew of five.

The engineer, Mr George Sedgewick, had joined the ship at Ymuiden, Holland, after a few days' familiarization with the engine controls of a sister ship. Mr Sedgewick maintained that Mr Sedgewick knew the type of engine well and had 26 years' seagoing experience, much of it in engine rooms.

The Union Star apparently got into trouble when water entered the fuel lines and the engines stalled and could not be restarted.

The reorganization of the Coastguard, its increasing centralization and reduction in permanently manned coastal stations and the withdrawal of many "visual watch officers"

has attracted bitter criticism, especially in the South-west, where allegations have been made that the service is becoming too remote from the people it serves.

But to senior officers the rationalization has brought increased efficiency. They say it is crucial if it is to keep up with the increasingly complex lifesaving demands.

The search and rescue region based at Brixham, Devon, is especially sensitive to criticism at the moment. It is the maritime rescue co-ordinating centre for a stretch of coast from Selsey westwards to Padstow, north Cornwall and includes the Cornish coast where the Penlee lifeboat met its fate.

Rationalization in the region has sent about 30 full-time officers back to four headquarters stations, and many of the 76 local coastguard stations in the region are now no longer continuously manned.

The ship's engineer, he said, attended the changes "How can you coordinate the activities of a tug, a lifeboat and a helicopter from a cliff-top? It is simply living in the past."

"The visual lookout is an uneconomic use of manpower. Watching out over the sea in the vague possibility of something happening is crazy in this day and age."

Mr Sproat said: "I think my staff at Falmouth took the correct life-saving action but there were so many problems in the British Rail's insistence in the row over flexible rostering that should go to binding arbitration."

The committee heard a report from Mr Murray on the



Real life Starsky and Hutch get their man

New York City is to hire an additional 2,300 police to deal with a crime wave, Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor, has announced. (Michael Hamlyn writes from New York).

Incomplete figures for 1981 show that crime has continued to increase and the number of arrests is failing to keep up. But for one man there was no escape.

He was arrested during a daylight raid on a Brooklyn home by a police undercover team. Officer John McBride grips the suspect in an armlock over a low wall ready to handcuff him. His partner, John Shields, holds his gun against the suspect's neck with his finger on the trigger.

They cannot be too careful. Burglars in New York frequently carry guns and are often ready to shoot their way out of a tight spot. In the last complete year for which statistics were kept there were 113 assaults on police officers involving handguns and 20 with shotguns. Altogether, there were 30,473 robberies involving the use of handguns.

Buckton claims backing of TUC in rail dispute

Continued from page 1

■ Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is awaiting by to resume his place in the train drivers' dispute, but a hardening of attitudes in the labour movement's "inner cabinet" yesterday suggests there will be no compromise from this quarter. (Paul Routledge writes).

Mr Buckton hailed the committee's "consider British Rail's finance and general purposes committee decision to support him as another blow to British Rail's insistence to pursue this grievance in accordance with the TUC now support that."

The committee heard a report from Mr Murray on the

City cannot afford to police visit by Pope

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A police authority is to seek extra government money to pay for the big security operation during the visit by the Pope in May. Councillors on Merseyside say the latest demands to cut their budget mean they cannot afford the police bill.

The cost of security for the Pope's Bank holiday visit to Liverpool seems certain to top £600,000. An overtime demand from officers policing the Pope's planned trip from Liverpool airport to the Catholic and Anglican cathedral in the city in an open-topped vehicle, the cost of which is £10 per cent.

We have already planned quite considerable cuts which have been very carefully worked out. I will tell him that these cuts are crazy. We will not abide by them because they are simply unattainable."

Mrs Margaret Simay, chair-

man of the Merseyside police committee said: "We are trying to see Mr Heseltine about this issue as soon as possible. The amount we are spending this year is going to be roughly £7m but we are now being told to cut that budget drastically. How can we afford extra items such as the cost of the Pope's visit when central government is demanding cuts of 19 per cent?"

"We have already planned quite considerable cuts which have been very carefully worked out. I will tell him that these cuts are crazy. We will not abide by them because they are simply unattainable."

Mrs Margaret Simay, chair-

Today's events

Royal engagements

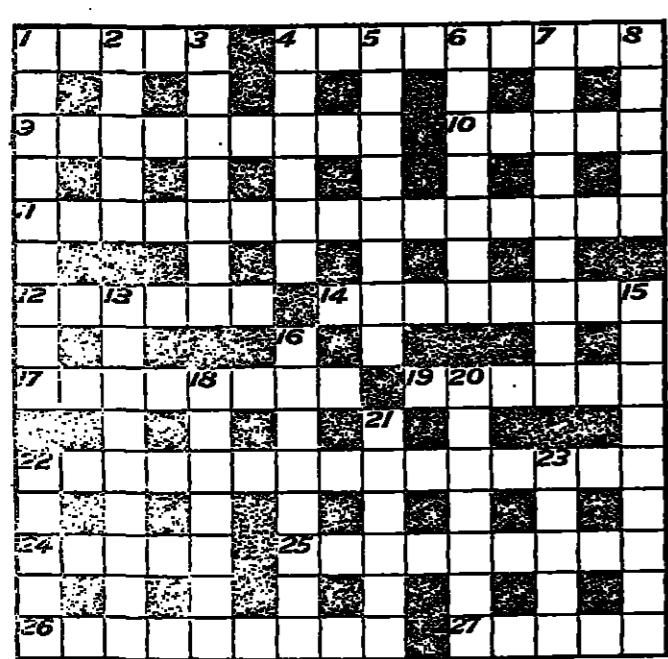
The Queen visits Royal Air Force, Marham, 11.30.

Princess Anne opens new Work

Timetables Centre at Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 12.

Princess Margaret attends Standard Drama Awards Luncheon, Savoy Hotel, 12.15.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,739



ACROSS

- Leader of boy's gang demands, loudly, a drink (5)
- Nothing unusually posh in a voyage in this (9)
- Diner once troubled with such glands (9)
- Pin back a climber (5)
- Committee gets a very generous cut (5,10)
- Doctor describes it grammatically (6)
- How tall is Mother Brown? (4-4)
- Records of monumental significance (8)
- Behind, like, with rent? That's bad (6)
- Fast work by midwife or messenger (7,8)
- Check account of what Salisbury declared in Army return (5)
- Crooked bell-ringer nominated for Low Sunday (9)
- Nominally Kennewell's plaything (5,4)
- New angle on what Ruth offered to do (5)

Exhibitions

Scottish Young Contemporaries, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, 10 to 5.

Experimental photography, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield, 10 to 8.

Poussin and his Engravers, University Art Gallery, Portland Building, Nottingham University,

Leicester, 10 to 5.30.

Truth Encounters—ethnic objects collected by David Attewborough, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, 96 New Walk, Leicester, 10 to 5.30.

Japanes art, Laing Art

Galleries, Highgate, Newcastle, 10 to 5.30.

Tables, lectures

Road transport development

the next 25 years, Bath University Hall, 7.45.

Music

Jazz concert, Threvesome, Brockington College, Enderby, Leicestershire, 7.30.

Concert, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending January 17:

ITV

1 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada

2 This Is Your Life, Thames

3 London Night Out, Thames

4 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada

5 Friday Night's Cars Right, London Weekend

6 Family Fortunes, Central

7 Minder, Thames

8 Saturday Night TV

9 Shine On Harvey Moon, Central

10 Let There Be Love, Thames

BBC 1

1 The Two Ronnies

2 Dallas

3 The Wiz II

4 Top of the Pops

5 Last of the Summer Wine

6 Name

7 Widescreen

8 Top of the Pops

9 Holiday

BBC 2

1 Grace Kennedy

2 Australian Film Season, Summer

3 Pot Black 82

4 Horizon

5 International Darts (Sat)

6 International Darts (Thurs)

7 Portmeirion

8 International Darts (Fri)

9 International Darts (Sun)

10 Audience Research Board

Auctions today

Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Silver and plate, 11; claret collector's items, vintage port, burgundy, German wines, sherry, 11.

Phillips, Blenheim Street: Furniture, 9 to 4.45; English pictures, 9 to 4.45; Christie's, 9.30 to 12; units, coverlets, samplers and embroidered pictures, 9.15 to 12; needlework books and tools, 9.15 to 12; English and Continental pictures, 9.15 to 4; ceramics, objects of art and sculpture, 9.15 to 4.30; furniture, 9.15 to 4.30; Oriental works of art, 2 to 4.30; Phillips, Blenheim Street: Josses Masters' tournament, at Wembley Conference Centre, 2.

Rackets: British championships at Queen's Club.

Open tennis: British Under-25s Championships, at Wembley, 21.

Heating bills

Information supplied by the Col

and published on this page on

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are available to those in receipt of

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